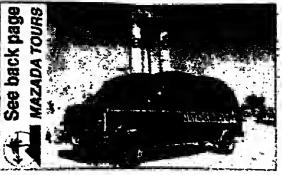


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The nightmare of VX gas

News in Focus



Independence Day stars sparkle



**Russian immigrant** women want respect

The Magazine

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# Cellcom to fund health study of cell phones

By JUDY SIEGEL

Cellcom has acceded to The Jerusalem Post's proposal that the telecommunications company establish a joint research fund with Pelephone and cellular phone importers that would study the possible detrimental effects of mobile phones on health.

If carried out, it reportedly would be the first research project in Israel financed by non-medical companies on the effects of their products on health.

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Senior Cellcom executives, who last night convened for an international board meeting, left the session specially to discuss the issue, which was raised by The Post in an

article last Friday. The Post reported on what experts have described as the "first serious study" to link a significantly increased risk of cancer in mice to exposure to the electro-

magnetic radiation of cell phones.
The lab study, conducted at Royal Adelaide Hospital in Australia, found that mice exposed to cell phone radiation over a period of 18 months had more than twice the incidence of lymphoma (cancer of the lymphatic system) than those that had not been exposed. Until now, numerous foreign studies failed to prove such a link.

Israel is regarded as a natural place for such research, not only because of the very high level of its scientific achievement, but Action taken after 'Post' report

also because Israelis spend more minutes on cellular phones per month than people in any other country.

Prof. John Goldsmith, a senior epidemiologist at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev who specializes in radiation, said the Australian study was "very startling new evidence that must be carefully evaluated."

Cellcom spokesman Ilan Bachar last night issued the statement by management, after being informed that Health Minister Yehoshua Matza had agreed to ask Pelephone and Cellcom to finance such

Minister Limor Livnat "heartily endorsed" the establishment of such a joint fund. Livnat has ministerial responsibility for the cellular phone companies.

"Cellcom accepts the proposal for research into the subject, and will in the coming days contact Pelephone, as well as the two importers that supply Cellcom with its peripheral equipment, Nokia and Eriksson, so they too can participate. Cellcom would like a joint team to prepare an agreement on the scope of the scientific

**Ayalon** 

to meet

PA security

heads

By MICHAL YUDELMAN and JON IMMANUEL

US peace envoy Dennis Ross appeared to make little progress in his efforts to renew the peace process yesterday, but the beads of the General Security Service and the Palestinians' security services are expected to resume contact

A meeting that had been

scheduled for yesterday between GSS head Ami Ayaloo aod Palestioiao security services heads Mohammed Dahlan and

Jibril Rajoub was postponed to

Prime Minister Bioyamin

Yasser Arafat. The Palestinians

said that a third party, the US. would be present at any security

Ross spent yesterday morning

Minister David Levy. Weizman

meeting with Arafat the previous

meetings with Israel.

today.

two sides.

research and the financing," Bachar

The Celicom spokesman added that all the cellular phones imported by Cellcorn for use in Israel have "met the highest safety stan-dards of Europe and the US, and numerous scientific studies conducted there have

shown that their use is completely safe." A few months ago, in an analysis of studies conducted up to now, the US Food and Drug Administration stated it had "no proof"

that cellular phones harm health. The Australian study, conducted on 200 mice, was led by Dr. Michael Repacholi, and published in Radiation Research, volume 147. The Australian authors claim their arti-

'No progress'

in Ross talks

cle was turned down by the prestigious journal Science on the grounds that publication would cause panic, and by Nature because "it could not handle such important conclusions without the research being confirmed by further studies."

Dr. Avi Livrat, head of the ministry's medical device unit, stated that "the subject is important," especially since many children also use cellular phones, thus making long-

term exposure a factor. Pelephone spokeswoman Ayelet Gradman said: "We have not been contacted by either the minister or anyone else about such an initiative; if we are, we will study the matter



Moledet MK Benny Elon points yesterday to the eastern Jerusalem bouse recently acquired for use by his Beit Orot Yeshiva. (Reuter)

### Beit Orot yeshiva gets villa in eastern Jerusalem as a gift

#### By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

A villa in an Arab neighborhood of eastern Jerusalem has been bought by an American millionaire and given to the Beit Orot Yeshiva, it was revealed yesterday, only days after the Palestinian Authority warned that anyone selling land to Jews would be sentenced to death. The villa, situated on a fourdunam plot between Mt. Scopus and the Mouot of Olives in the Arab neighborhood of A-Tur, was reportedly sold for NIS 10 million by its owner Armenian Archbishop Shahe Ajamian to Irving Moskowitz, who handed it over to the yeshiva.

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Ajamian has reportedly left the

Moskowitz is said to bave financed archeological excavations near the Western Wall and purchased land in the Arab neighborhood of Ras el-Amud in

Yesterday morning, yeshiva stu-dents started refurbishing the villa,

Settlers' council assists Yitzhar residents, Page 3

which they are to move into on Independence Day. Steps were constructed connecting the build-

ing to Beit Orot. Arabs, who noticed the work being carried out, reported it to the Palestinian Authority. Ahmed Tibi. an adviser to PA Chairman Yasser Arafat, called the incideot

extremely serious. MK Benny Elon (Moledet). director of Beit Orot, said be couldn't understand what all the fuss was about.

We are on good terms with all our neighbors, he said. Regarding Tibi's remarks, Elon said, "So what if the Palestinians

Beit Orot, a hesder yeshiva situated on a seven-dunam plot, was

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### Villa's Armenian seller has colorful past

Members of Jerusalem's American community resterday spec-viated that Archibishop Shahe Ajamina, one of their most colorful and controversial - clerics, must have closed the deal to sell his house on the Mount of Olives to the Best Orox Yeshiva in January, when he spent two weeks in Jerusalem.

Considered by many to be the most brilliant member of the Armenian religious brotherhood and for many years chancellor of the Armenian Patriarchate, Ajamian fell from grace in 1982 as a nesult of a rift with the then patriately the late Yeshighe Derderjan. A friend of such figures as former lerusalem mayor Reddy Kollek and former interior Ministry Jerusalem district representative Rati Levy, the American churchinan suffered a further reversal of fortune when he was juited for three weeks in connec-

tion with Levy's incarceration on committee charges.

However, despite these setbacks, Ajaraian not only enjoyed the backing of the world head of his charch in America, he also had considerable personal wealth, the result of real estate deals and the sale of parts of his extensive Roman glass, Byzantine ceramics and oriental carpet collections.

How the past few years Ajamian; 75, has been living in the Armenian Republic, where he teaches religion, People in the community said that now that he has sold his house, it is doubtful that he will return to Jerustlem, especially in view of the intense, anger that the sale engendered in Palestinian circles. Haim Shapiro

established in 1990. It was the subject of great controversy four years ago when it attempted to expand by erecting temporary homes that adjoined the yeshiva. At the time,

the Jerusalem Municipality issued a demolition order which enraged settlement leaders.

The order was later revoked by Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert

who supported Shimon Peres in the last elections. However, a clear majority of car-flaggers

THE HARD ROCK EXPERIENCE IN ISRAEL

Happy Hour Tuesday, Friday between 4 p.m. - 8 p.m.

DON'T MISS IT!!!

# Minister David Levy in Jerusalem yesterday. "We're looking at all matters to

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu sits down for a meeting with US peace process eovoy Dennis Ross (center) and Foreign

day, noting that he had promised large-scale building for Arabs io Jerusalem, but did not have the authority to agree to the Palestinians' demands.

Netanyahu said yesterday that the Theo Ross met Netanyahu, who meeting of the security heads will spoke mainly of Israel's security be a test as to whether there will demands. He told Ross that Israel be full cooperation between the is not getting real-time intelligence about Palestinian terrorist Last night Gaza Preveotive activity and that the PA has oot Security chief Dahlan met with proved its determination to fight Palestinian Authority Chairman

Ross theo met with Arafat and passed on Israel's message that the building in Har Homa and the settlemeots will not stop. The PA chairman reiterated that there must

meeting Netanyahu, President Ezer Weizman and Foreign be a halt to settlements before peace talks can resume. The meeting was described by recounted his impressions of his diplomatic sources as "unsuccess-

voted Likud in 1996.

see what can be done, to find ways to restore confidence, which is really crucial if we're going to be able to [put] the peace process back on track," Ross said, after the meeting.

Arafat spokesman Marwan Kanafani clarified that "settlements" included the Har Homa

"All settlements including Jebl Abu Ghneim [Har Homa], must stop. Dennis Ross should understand that nothing will move if settlements do not stop," Kanafani

The Palestinians made clear that they are not willing to accept the Har Homa project in return for some other concession.

Continued on Page 6

dles at military cemeteries around

the country for Remembrance

Day for the Fallen of Israel's

Wars, which begins Saturday

### Most Israelis fly the flag

The survey also found that

haredim do not buy flags, older

people are more likely to fly flags

A large majority of Israelis hang the national flag from their homes or cars oo Independence Day. according to a Gallup survey conducted for Army Radio.

Remembrance Day to mark death of 18,538, Page 18

Seventy-two percent display the

flag outside their bomes, while 62% put flags on their cars. Of those who hang flags from their homes, there was oo significant difference in the percentage between those who supported Binyamio Netanyahu and those

deots are new immigrants.

senting all sectors of the population (including the Arab sector)

had a 4.4% margin of error. Since Independence Day 1996, the population bas grown 2.6 percent, to 5.8 million, Some 68,000 of the state's 148,000 new resi-

Bnei Akiva members plan to distribute 20,000 memorial can-

than younger ones, and the most night. A one-minute siren is to sound popular area in Israel for flags is the North, especially around at 10 p.m. on Saturday, followed by municipal memorial cere-The telephone survey of 503 adults above the age of 18 repre-

On Sunday, there will be memo-

rial ceremonies at military cemeteries after a two-minute siren goes off at 11 a.m. Egged, Magen David Adom and security forces have made special arrangements to accommodate the crowds expected at the ceremonies. Independence Day celebrations

begin Suoday night. Jerusalem Post Staff and Itim



From 191 AVIV, Line 5, near the Habimah Theater, at 9:30. 

#### Government workers stopping sanctions

The workers at 15 government ministries announced last night that they are stopping their work sanctions, after having seriously disrupted their offices' operations for seven workdays.

The Arbitration Institute ruled yesterday that Finance Minister

Dan Meridor must hold talks with Histadrut Chairman Amir Peretz on implementing the change in calculating wage increases - from giving them in shekels to giving them in percentages - to some 10,000 workers. The workers said they are retaining their right to resume work actions, but will not conduct sanctions while talks are continuing.

#### Shots fired at car near Neveh Daniel

Shots were fired last night at a van near the settlement Neveh Daniel, south of the Tunnel Road that joins Gush Etzion to Jerusalem, according to the settlers' news agency. Eleven teenage girls from the settlement of Maon were traveling in the van. No one was injured. The IDF Spokesman said the incident Margot Dudkevitch

#### Peled Committee recommends TV reform

The Peled Committee considering changes in the structure of television broadcasting, has recommended establishing one communications authority and rewriting the country's communications laws. Under the plan, Channel 2 would be run by one company, rather than the current three, and IBA fees would be abolished, while the government would continue to fund public broadcasting.

#### IDF ransacks illegal Beduin encampment

Forces from the IDF and civil administration removed a oumber of Beduin families living on what the army said was state land near Jericho. Witnesses were quoted as saying the IDF soldiers beat the Beduin, but the army denied this.

The Beduin were allegedly squatting on land near Jiflik, north of Jericho, in an encampment named Farus Beit-Dajan. The army said it evacuated the Beduin only after they ignored a number of warnings.

#### Army reissues touring regulations for areas

The IDF yesterday repeated its call for those planning to tour in Judea, Samaria and the Jordan Valley to first coordinate their travcls with the proper security authorities. The army said individual touring is forbidden and advised that the public tour only in groups of 15 or more. The IDF said that tours in Judea and Samaria are allowed only in designated touring sites.

#### **OC Northern Command awards 7 medals**

OC Northern Command Maj.-Gen. Amiram Levine has presented medals to seven officers and soldiers. One of the awards

was made posthumously.

The medals were awarded to four members of a tank crew, including Sgt. Lior Shabtai, who was killed, and Sec.-Lt. Mordechai Etzion, who was badly wounded, for their role io thwartiog two separate Hizbullah attacks. Shahtai's parents accepted bis medal. Medals were also given to the former commander of the elite Egoz unit, as well as a lieutenant in the same unit, and a captain in the Armored Corps. David Rudge.

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# Reno confirms spy scandal probe

#### By HILLEL KUTTLER and news agencies

WASHINGTON - Attorney General Janet Reno confirmed yesterday that there is an investigation iovolving an iotercepted conversation that suggested Israel may have an intelligence source who can obtain sensitive US information.

Israeli Embassy officials said the FBI has not contacted them on any aspect of the Washington Post report, which revealed the

Asked at her weekly briefing if she was concerned about a possible Israeli penetra-tion of the US government, Reno stated: "We have an ongoing investigation, so I can't comment."

Reno also was asked if she was concerned that transcripts of the conversation from the super-secret US National Security Agency had been printed by the news media and whether there was an investigation into who leaked the information. Reno and the officials declined to give

any details of the investigation. In Jerusalem, Israel has flatly denied that the FBI is probing whether a senior US government official had been passing highly sensitive information to the Israeli gov-

But yesterday The New York Times, quoting unnamed US officials, also confirmed the probe. It said results of the investigation far have been "inconclusive" and that one official suggested the FBI had not identified any suspects.

The Post said the investigation was launched in January after the National Security Agency intercepted a secure communication between a senior Israeli intelligence officer in Washington and a superior in Tcl Aviv.

The communication referred to someone codenamed "Mega" and an attempt to

obtain a sensitive American document, a letter from then-secretary of state Warren Christopher to Palestinian Chairman Yasser Arafat, the Past reported.

The Post said the content of the conversation led US officials to believe Mega may be someone in the US government who had provided information to Israel in the past. Israeli government officials yesterday dismissed the allegations as ridiculous.

American ally. "I can tell you that I know the facts, know the truth. When the truth becomes clear, I believe everyone will understand how false and ludicrous the story is," said Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's cab-

inet secretary Danny Naveh. We are certain [the story] is wrong factually in one respect - the part alluding to Israeli intelligence gathering in the United States," said government spokesman cies.

Moshe Fogel.

The Ha'aretz newspaper said the suspicions derived from a mistake in the American efforts to decipher code names

used in the conversation. The report said the Americans concluded the Israelis were discussing an agent codenamed "Mega," when the Israelis actually used the word "Elga" which Ha'aret; said was an old code name used by Israel for the

Central Intelligence Agency itself.
One knowledgeable source said that the insisting Israel does not spy on its two men were discussing the possibility of asking the CIA for routine information regarding the United States' security understandings with the Palestinians; no spying

would have been needed, he said, One official told The Associated Press that the report appeared to be an effort by someone to "throw a monkey wrench" into Israel's relations with US intelligence agen-

### Peres-for-party-president proposal suffers severe blow

#### By SARAH HONIG

The proposal to appoint Shimon Peres as Labor Party president suffered what may be an irreversible setback last night when the party steering committee refused to put it on the agenda of next week's convention.

In a stormy session at Beit Berl yesterday the committee accepted the objections to the proposal lodged by party leadership contest frontrunner MK Ehud Barak

This means the idea will probably be dropped, because on June 3 the party clects a new leader and Barak, who is confident of victory, will then be able to define the new position so that it would be an honorary one. This is not what Peres

Labor Secretary-General Nissim Zvilli, who is sponsoring the pro-Peres proposal, vowed last night to appeal the committee's decision and said he would assure that the convention next week does appoint Peres to the new post. He argued that the committee's ruling can be overturned on the convention floor.

Zvilli clashed bitterly with Barak and other speakers at the committee meeting. He termed Barak's assertion that Peres as president would nodermine whoever is elected the party's new chairman as "atter jibberish. I have oo intention of challenging the new party chairman with a second leader. The party hierarchy would be untouched if a president were appointed alongside the chairman." He accused the Barak camp of employing steamroller tactics to urie any initrative not to its liking

The screaming match between the Peres and Barak supporters was so loud that the committee chairman MK Shevah Weiss repeatedly threatened, amid the pandemonium, the adjourn the session.

Just prior to the steering committee meeting, Barak said that



Shimon Peres

appointing Peres to the new post would "create two power centers in the party," and the resulting struggles would distract the party from trying to bring the government

Barak's victory at the steering committee follows an earlier victory in the party's legal committee" which ruled unanimously that Peres cannot be appointed party president without an amendment to the party constitution.

That amendment, the committee stipulated, must clearly define just what the new position would mean, what powers and authority it would confer, who is entitled to be president, who chooses him, what the selection processes are, wbat would be the relationship between the president and the party chairman and whether the president can represent the party in Israel and

Next week's cooverition will be preceded today by a convention of the Labor Party's Jerusalem branch. Among its speakers will be Likud MK Ze'ev Begin, who will be asked to explain his anti-Oslo

Continued on Page 6

CORRECTION-

Opening Exhibition - Bobbie Hartman Paintings

Nora Gallery

May 17th, 1997

Time: after Shabbat 20:30 - 22:30

The Ingeborg Rennert Center for Jerusalem Studies

invites the public to a symposium in Hebrew on

"The Responsibility of the Jewish

People vis-a-vis World Moral Issues"

Wednesday, May 14, 1997, at 11:00 a.m.,

in the Beck Auditorium

Keynote participant: Prof. Elie Wiesei, Nobel Laureate

Other participants: Prof. Irwin Cotier, Chaim Guri,

Rabbi Menachem Hacohen, Prof. Ella Beifer,

Prof. Daniel Statman and Prof. Yehudit Dishon (moderator)

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#### Labor to start moves to advance **elections**

#### By LIAT COLLINS

The Labor faction in the Knesset has decided to start acting to advance the elections and to discuss the matter with other factions, including the Third Way and Moledet

In a faction meeting yesterday Labor MKs severely criticized the government and the way it functions, saying Israel is in a grave situation.

MK Binyamin Ben-Eliezer said: "Israel's position in the diplomatic and defense arenas is terrible and we are on the eve of war. A war could erupt tomorrow or the day after."

MK Haggai Merom described the situation as "critical," MK Moshe Shahal also warned: "We are at the height of a process that leads to war. There is no leader and no place in the world who musts [Prime Minister Binyamin] Netanyahu. A con-

flict is coming."

Most of the Labor MKs called for steps to hold early elections, including getting the public to sign petitions a 1 holding talks with coalition printes, primarily The Third Way and Moledet.

At the end is the meeting was decided to adopt this decision and to submit a motion calling for the early dissolution of the Knesset. The Knesset is scheduled to begin its summer session on May 19.

In another development yes-

terday, Labor faction head MK Ra'anan Cohen amounced that as soon as the summer session begins, Labor will request an urgent plenum discussion on the financial crisis in the local authorities. Cohen attributed part of the crisis to a lack of action by the Prime Minister's Office.

This is an intolerable situation, which cannot continue. An immediate solution must be found in order to enable the local authorities to function."

### Deri to A-G: Suspend my fraud trial

#### By BATSHEVA TSUR

Shas MK Aryeh Deri yesterday asked Attorney-General Elyakim Ruhinstein to suspend the his cur-rent fraud trial and resume it only after he is tried on the allegations relating to the Bar-On Affair the conclusion of the court debate on the Bar-On affair.

Deri said that the judges presiding over the fraud trial in Jerusalem District Court "are made of flesh and blood," and asked, "How can they remain objective towards me when I have been accused of such heinous crimes?"
The Jerusalem District Court

immediately released a statement through the Justice Ministry, saying that the fraud case would con-

Ruhinstein later said that Deri's request had arrived only after his announcement. "It will be examined soon and handled in the usual manner," Rubinstein said.

Asked about an earlier threat to take action against his former lawyer Dan Avi-Yitzhak, who resigned from his fraud case and is reportedly the main source of the information that sparked the Bar-



Aryeh Deri

On Affair, Deri said that such

action was being prepared. Deri said he had twice requested that the attorney-general submit to him copies of the allegations against him so that he could prepare himself, but he bad so far heard oothing. "They apparently don't want to let us see it before the High Court hearing" next Wednesday, on petitions relating to the Bar-On Affair.

Continued on Page 6

### Settlers angry over portrayal in Rabin film

By MICHAL YUDELMAN and MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

Settlement leaders are seeking to prevent the screening of the documentary The Road to Kikar Rabin, slated to be broadcast on Channel 2 on Dana Dayan's Fact show next Tuesday night.

After some of the leaders from the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza viewed the film, outraged and astonished, they called it a clear example of the intentions of the extreme left, adding there were no limits to the wild imagination and nastiness used in the film they

dubbed "pure propaganda." secretary-general Council Aharon Domb, in a statement issued last night, said it was a shame that senior journalists were forced to distort the facts, and completely ignore the reasons that thousands of people took to the fashion for their beliefs.

Council spokeswoman Yehudit Tayar said lawyers were examiniog their position. Tayar said the film alleges "very serious charges against us [the council] as well as Justice Minister Tzahi Haneghi, former council chairman Uri Ariel and Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu.

"We will sue for libel if neces-sary," she said, adding that in the aftermath of prime minister Yitzhak Rahio's assassination, council leaders and the right wing in general were blamed for what had happened. "This documentary is full of incitement and could very well create violence, which no one wants," she said.

Haneghi, meanwhile, is threatening a libel suit against the documentary's director and writer, Michael Karpin.

Certain politicians could have prevented the escalation and incitement against Rabin, but did not do so," Karpin said in a prebroadcast press conference, referring to Haneghi, Netanyahu and

The film presents Haneghi as the head of the incitement campaign. The film also reveals that hundreds of rahhis debated the question of whether din rodef applied to Rabin, and a number of them ruled that it did, according to testimonies, although most denied it afterwards. It also refutes the "lone lunatic" concept regarding the assassin Yigal Amir, attempting to expose the apparatus, both political and ideological, which led to the murder.

#### Winning numbers and cards

In the weekly Payis Hazak draw. ticket 277733 won the NIS 1 million prize and ticket 506377 won a car. Winning NIS 5,000 were tickets 060760, 056810, 807830. 081461, 570728, 827844, 518347 and 290295. Tickets ending in 62653, 60265, 77792, 26668 73411, 66022, 90642, 59103, 25087, 05968, 83107, 75583, 47683, 45354, 85004, 40812 42857, 00011 and 73153 won NIS

Tickets ending in 870, 639, 466 and 421 won NIS 100. Winning NIS 30 were tickets ending in 53. 30, 40 and 58. Tickets ending in 20 and 62 won NIS 20, while those ending in 9 and 2 won NIS

In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance draws, the lucky cards were the queen of spades. seven of hearts, 10 of diamonds and ace of clubs; and 10 of spades. ace of hearts, seven of diamonds and eight of clubs.

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I appeal for your help for a unfortunate widow whose husband was killed in a horrendous car accident. She has been left with small children, no means of supporting them, and no one to help them. Their situation is critical and their suffering very great. Rabbi Shmuel has taken them under his protection, and is endeavoring to help them, provide them with some means of support, and find a way to pay their debts.

All who help this widow and her orphans will be performing a great mitzva, and will be blessed by the Almighty with all spiritual and worldly blessings. Mordechai Ellahu.

Former Chief Rabbi and Rishon Lezion I appeal for help for this poor widow and her children. The father of orphans and judge of widows will reward all who contribute to

Rabbi Mordechai Alon

Donations can be sent to: Rabbi Shmuei Leitner, 26 Rehov Ezrat Tora, Jerusalem, or paid into Acct. No. 382996, United Mizrahi Bank, Branch 17, Jerusalem. Call 02-537 0913 for further information.

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Jan 1994

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Yitzhar – Netanyahu's lose-lose gambit

Just days after three illegally built structures were demolished outside of Yitzhar and dozens of people evicted from the site, the resideots continued to rebuild the structures - under the watchful eye of the police and IDF.
That the security forces, who

tore down the structures on Tuesday, were watching them go back up on Wednesday and Thursday, forces the basic ques-don: What is going on? Why go through the trouble of bloodying noses, destroying buildings and providing the people of Israel with traumatic pictures of Jews evicting Jews, only then to turn around the next day and let other structures to go up at the same site?

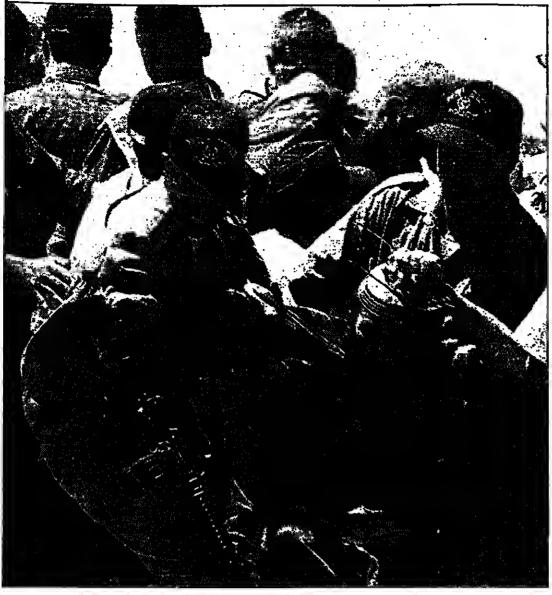
The seemingly obvious explanacon for the order to demolish the structures is that it was an attempt to show a visiting Dennis Ross that Israel is intent on keeping the settlers in line, and that despite the government's lukewarm attitude toward the Oslo process, it is intent on keeping the settlers from staking a claim to more and more hill-

This explanation is just an exteosion of a similar theory: that the Yitzhar incident was timed to eoincide with the Weizman-Arafat meeting at Erez earlier this week. According to this reasoning, the structures were destroyed as a type of "confidence building" measure oward the Palestinians.

The concern among settlement officials is that destruction of the structures heralds a new government policy of removing similar structures at other settlemeots Prected under the previous government. These structures, which settlement officials say number in the "dozens," were erected with the wink of an eye but without formal government approval in order to keep the Palestiniana from encroaching on state land,

Had the demolition at Yitzhar heralded a new government policy to begin removing these structures, then it would have made oo sense for the security forces to turn a blind eye a couple of days later as they were being rebuilt. Does any-body really think that Ross, the US special envoy, or Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat

of these homes, coupled with the removal of two mobile homes set up illegally in Mitzpe Yeriho five days earlier, was designed to show the highly ideological settlers who populate both settlemeous that the police have gone into Yitzhar,



حاذا من الأصل

Policemen struggle with a Yitzhar resident on Tuesday, when illegally built structures there were

government is intent on setting firm boundaries to their communities, and that it is not going to let the decision on where and wheo to build be made by the settlers themselves, as happened during the

The problem with this explanation is that the structures at Yitzhar have been there for at least two years, and are not - as could be argued at Mitzpe Yeriho - an attempt to lay claim to oew land

Another explanation for the - Another reason bandled about whole episode is that the removal for the Yitzhar operation, at least in settlemeot circles, is that OC Central Command Maj.-Gen. Uzi Dayan simply wanted to "get back" at the settlemeot. This is not the first time that the IDF and either to look for alleged troublemakers or to stop illegal building. The last time was April 1996, wheo six mobile homes were

According to this reasoning, Dayan gave the order to remove the structures as a way to settle accounts with the settlement - a farfetched idea that a commander of Dayan's stature would embark on this type of personal vendetta.

Which leaves one other explanation - the shleimeliot (dolt) factor. According to this theory, the whole, Yitzhar operation was - like the Roni Bar-On appointment - simply another example of a govern-ment policy that is taken without considering all the ramifications. For months, settlement leaders have complained that when it eomes to settlement policy. Netanyahu is ensuring the worst of all worlds. On the one hand, he makes grandiose proclamations about the rights of the Jews to Eretz Yisrael, and says he will build in the territories, thereby attracting fire from the entire world. Yet, on the ground, he does

In the Yitzhar case, to use the same analogy, he goes ahead and destroys the structures, bringing about the wrath of the settlers and the right-wing of his coalition, and in the eod watches as the structures are rebuilt, thereby enraging the Palestinians and the left. Nothing is gained, and he is criticized on all

# Yitzhar residents rebuild six homes

Yesha: We will not tolerate further destruction

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

للمحافظ للمنابي للمحافظ فللمعالم والأنكوان والمتنافض والمراز والمالي والمتبار والمتشار السناء والماليان

Yitzhar settlers worked ferociously throughout the day yesterday to build houses on a nearby hilltop, where three homes were destroyed under mil-

itary order two days earlier. By nightfall the settlemeot's secretary Yehuda Liebman said six houses had been erected and

families were moving in. Earlier in the day, IDF troops visited the billtop and reported details of the work being carried out

to their superiors. The Council of Jewish Communities io Judea, Samaria and Gaza sent supplies to Yitzhar on Wednesday oight and yesterday morning to help the settlers rebuild.

"We will oot tolerate further destruction of Jewiah homes," said council spokeswomao Yehudit Tayar.

Later, the eouoeil met with Yitzhar settlers to determine what strategy should be takeo in their

struggle to remain on the hilltop. After the meeting, Liebman said they expected around 300 settlers and others who support their effort to speed Shabbat on the hilltop. Io addition, be said they are planning to eelebrate Independence Day at the site and expect a large show of people, including members of the Laod of Israel Front Knesset eaueus and other public fig-

'We will contioue to build wooden bouses on the billtop, and fill them with families from the settle-meot," he said.

Meanwhile, eouoeil members sought to arrange an emergeoey meeting with Defeose Minister Yitzhak Mordecbai to discuss the situatioo in Yitzhar and elarify what policies and plans the ministry bas for the future regarding the settle-

In addition, Tayar said it was also an opportunity to improve relations. Mordechai's media eoor-

dinator Avi Beoayahu said the minister would meet with the settlement eouneil leaders next

Regarding the rehuilding on the hilltop io Yitzhar and wbether the ministry planced to demolish the houses, Benayahu said he would not

divulge any future plans or steps the ministry may "We expect the present government we all worked so bard to bave elected will realize that

there is no compromise on the matter," said Tayar. As council leaders met in Yitzhar, a force of 60 to 70 policemen arrived at Mitzpeh Yerieho and began taking photos and walking around the settlemeot. Their arrival caused concern, as residents feared they planned to remove more caravans.

A week ago, a force of 180 policemeo earried oot a surprise raid and removed two earavans situated on a billtop in the 180-family settlement.

When eonfronted by settlers, some of the policemeo told them - "It's a sheme we can't evacuate you as well," according to resident Eli Neiman.

The settlers demanded that the police leave immediately, and aecompanied them out of the

settlement. Mitzpeh Yeriebo seeretary Sarah Sarel said the policemen took photos of some 20 earavans set up in the new neighborbood that houses young mar-

ried eouples. Judea and Samaria police spokesman Opher Sivan refused to eomment or explain why the police were there.

"We don't bave to give details of everything we

Meanwhile, Meretz leader Yossi Sarid demanded that Prime Mioister Binyamio Netanyahu and Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai forbid any illegal building on the billtop in Yitzhar.

"If the government is unable to prevent these lawbreakers, then they are in effect partners io erime," he said.



Ministry of Defense • Rehabilitation Division Section for Memorializing the Fallen

### Remembrance Day for the Fallen of Israel's Wars

### The day we remember our dear ones

On Saturday night, May 10, sirens will sound throughout the country at 10 p.m.

### We call on all households to kindle a memorial light

On Sunday, May 11, sirens for a minute's silence will sound at 11 a.m., at which time, national memorial ceremonies will be held at military cemeteries, and services will take place in cemeteries where the fallen are buried.

Persons bearing weapons, including soldiers, will not be allowed into the cemeteries.

INCREASE IN FREQUENCY OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES TO MEMORIAL CEREMONIES AT CEMETERIES ON REMEMBRANCE DAY FOR THE FALLEN OF ISRAEL'S WARS

> ON EGGED AND DAN **SUNDAY, MAY 11, 1997**

Kiryat Shaul:

Special line 127, from the new Central Bus Station (4th floor near lina 5) via Derech Petah Tikva and Derech Namir, Central Railway Station, to the cemetery, from 6:30; and return after the ceremony to Tel Aviv, Petah Tikva, Holon, Bat Yam, Rishon Lezion, Herziiya, Ra'anana and Ramat Hasharon.

Egged - from Herzilya and Tel Aviv: 521, 524, 531, 535 From Kfar Sava: 575

Buses will added to Lines 63 and 53 from Tel Aviv - Ramat Gan, from 7:30. Nahalat Yltzhak:

Holon:

Petah Tikva:

Halfa:

Buses will be added to Lines 40 and 42 from Ramat Gan, Line 46 from the new Central Bus Station in Tel Aviv, Line 2 from north Tel Aviv, Line 8 (Reading Station), Line 18 from the Central Railway Station Arlosoroff depot via the Law Court, central Tel Aviv. Buses will be added to Line 49 to Kiryat Shaul.

Buses will be added to Line 8 on its route from the Petah Tikva Central Bua Station. Buses will be added to Line 92 from Bnei Brak to the Segula Cemetery. Buses will be added to Lines 43, 44, and 45. After the ceremony thank will be express and regular buses to Tel Aviv. Transportation will be available to the public from the parking lots, and from the Exhibition Center (Freud Junction), to the Military Cemetery in

Haifa and back after the ceremony. There will be more buses on all city routes that go to Mt. Herzl. Jerusalem

Kirvat Anavim:

Belt Sheam:

From the new Tel Aviv Central Bus Station at 8:30. There will be more buses on Line From the special departure platform at the Central Bua Station to the local cemetery, at 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 10:30; and return after the ceremony.

Acre: Afula:

From the Central Bus Station to the Nahariya Military Cemetery at 9:00, and return after From special departure platform at the Central Bus Station to the local cemetery, at

9:00, 9:30, 10:00; and return after the ceremony. From the new Tel Aviv Central Bus Station, special departure platform, at 8:30.

From the new Haifa Central Bus Station, Platform 1, at 8:15; and return after the

Negba: Be'er Tovia:

From Tel Aviv Central Bus Station, at 6:45. To Jerusalem, increased number of buses on Lines 961, 963, 964. Minibus from the new Tel Aviv Central Bus Station, special departures platform, at 8:30. From Tel Aviv, Line 5, near the Hablmah Theater, at 9:30.

Z......

### Matza objects to Palestinian health resolutions

By JUDY SIEGEL

Annoyed by harsh wording of resolutions critical of Israel that were initiated by the Palestinian delegation to the World Health Assembly in Geneva, Health Minister Yehoshua Matza yesterday urged Dr. Fathi Arafat - head of the Palestinian Red Crescent Society and younger sibling of Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat - "to let your brother deal with political matters and you deal with medicine and

... Matza, who met with Arafat during the annual assembly of the World Health Organization io Geneva, said that politics must be removed from health issues, and that Palestinians would be better off giving their atteotion to humanitarian matters. The Palestinian delegation bad tried to get full membership status, but was denied it because it does not represeot a state.

The Palestinian delegation also presented resolutions harshly critieized Israel "There are great gaps between a," Matza said, but the

Palestinian Red Crescent Society should conceotrate on humanitari-Arafat, a pediatrician, responded

that his organization's political activities at the assembly resulted from the fact that "we are not a state, thus we have to depend on Arab states. We must find wording that will suit some of the extreme [Arab] states."

Matza said Arafat promised him that he would try to moderate the resolutions and remove the political wording from them.



האגודה להבנה בינדתית בישראל THE ISRAEL INTERFAITH ASSOCIATION

The fourth discussion evening in the series "My God"

Will take place on Wednesday, May 14th 1997 at 20:00 (reception at 19:30) In The Notre Dame Center (opposit the New Gate)

on the subject

### "God as my literary hero"

The lecturers:

Prof. Yaakov Malkin, (University Tel Aviv, Director of the College of Pluralistic Judaism, Jerusalem)

In 1996 he published his leat book: Whet Do Secular Jews Salieve.

Moderators:

Mr. Mohamad Hurani, The Israel Interfaith Association Mr. Jan Senkyr, The Konrad Adenauer Foundation

The discussion will be held in Hebrew and English with simulian eous translation.





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**OPEN HOUSE** . Meet with the Program Director Sunday, June 15, 1997 Sheraton Hotel, Tel Aviv 115 Hayarkon St.,

17:00-19:00 To confirm your participation please call, fax or e-mail

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### Leaking with malice

Tith the end of the Cold War, spy stories are becoming scarcer. The Washington Post report that the US Federal Bureau of Investigation is looking into the possibility of an Israeli spy called "Mega," perhaps helps fulfill the yearning for the excite-ment of a previous era. If the allegations prove false, however, there had better be an iovestigation of another sort in Washington.

According to the article, the National Security Ageocy (NSA) intercepted a conversatioo between two Israeli intelligeoce officers regarding a request by Israel's Ambassador Eliahu Beo-Elissar. The ambassador allegedly sought a copy of the side letter written by then-secretary of state Warren Christopher to Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat regarding the Hebroo Agreemeot. The Israeli intelligence official reportedly told his supervisor, "The amhassador wants me to go to Mega to get a copy of this letter." The reported respoose was, "This is not something we use Mega for."

There a number of striking things about this report. First, specific leaks of NSA intercepts are very rare. The NSA is perhaps the most secretive of America's intelligence agencies. NSA intercepts are among the most highly classified jewels of the intelligence community, not just for the information they contain, but hecause they reveal intelligeoce capabilities -"sources and methods" in spy-speak.

This particular leak, if authentic, revealed that the NSA is capable of cracking highly encrypted Israeli telephone conversations. This is the sort of capability that NSA might be quite proud of, but would be loathe to bave splashed over the froot pages of major newspapers.

The fact that this leak may hurt the NSA makes the leakers doubly malicious; they are willing to compromise their own intelligeoce services in order to throw a wrench in US-Israeli relations. The seriousness of this act would he greatly compounded if the whole story is big mistake, as some reports iodicate.

According to a report published in yesterday's New York Post by intelligence analyst Uri Dan, the key term "Mega" does not refer to an American official spying for Israel, but to an established network for the sharing of political information between Western intelligence serexists to share intelligence related to counter-

If Dan is correct, then the Israeli officials were simply engaged in routine professional consultatioo, as to wbether the ambassador's request could or should be fulfilled by consulting an official intelligence-sharing oetwork.

Dan's explanatioo is corroborated by Israeli intelligence officials who, according to Yedior Aharonot analyst Ron Ben-Ishai, are saying that the Americans misunderstood the intercepted conversatioo - in particular the reference to "Mega." Cabinet Secretary Danny Naveb also did oot deny the text of the leaked intercept, but said that "I know exactly what 'Mega' is and I am sure that after we clarify this with the Americans, they will accept our explanations and the Washington Post report will turn out to be a wild goose chase." It looks, therefore, like "Mega" is a 'wbat' and not a 'who.' If so, the Washington Post and probably the FBI are going to be seriously emharrassed.

In any case, the comparisons made by the Washington Post and many subsequent reports between this case and that of Jonathan Pollard are irresponsible and tendentious. The Washington Post claims that "ooe [US] official said ... that if it turned out that a senior US official was passing sensitive information to Israeli authorities, it could prove more serious than the espionage case involving Jooathan Jay Pollard." It takes a great leap of imagination to take a single reference to something called Mega, and build upon it the charge that Mega is not only a person, but an American; not only an American, but a senior American official; and oot only a senior American official but one who is doing more damage than the worst spy in the history of Israeli-American relations.

All this, when the document in question was known to Israel - Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu told his cabinet during consideration of the Hebron Agreement in January that he bad seen it - and whose full text was published in Ha'aretz just two weeks later.

Despite the understandable restrictions on the ability of US and Israeli officials to discuss intelligence matters, both countries need to work quickly to figure out the truth and take corrective action. If, as Natan Sharansky would say, 10 percent of the allegations are correct, then Israel could have a legitimate scandal on its vices. "Mega," according to Dan, is short for hands. But if this story is as shot through with "Megawatt," the code name of the network. boles as it seems, the investigation should focus Another network, called "Kilowatt," reportedly on the sources of the story, and on bow to deter future attempts to sabotage the US-Israel rela-

### A cellular wake-up call

t first, the staggering growth in cellular ry mice, brought to the wider public's attentioo phone use here was just an irritant for A those wanting to maintain a quieter, more civilized way of life, with stories of cellular phones ringing during funeral services, military operations; and the like causing amusement and/or anger. By now, however, the metallic trilling of the little gadgets has been basically accepted as an inevitable part of modern living.

Around one in four Israelis uses a cellular phone, and he or she talks longer than users in other parts of the world. Age is no barrier, parents worried for their children's safety equip them with cellular phones; in fact, some of the first reports of the Naharayim massacre came from a schoolgirl calling home. If the kova tembel was the symbol of the modern Israeli circa 1948, that unflattering hat has now been replaced by a piece of plastic seemingly glued to the Israeli ear.

This phenomenon has oo doubt been keeping sociologists busy and cellular phone makers happy. But a recent Australian study on laboratoby The Jerusalem Post's health and science reporter Judy Siegel-Itzkovich, bas linked cancer with exposure to electromagnetic radiation from cellular phones. It is too early to draw any conclusions from just one study, but the research certainly demands immediate and serious atteotion.

To its credit, Cellcom has agreed to The Jerusalem Post's proposal that the telecommunications company establish a joint research fuod with Pelephone and cellular phooe importers to study this issue. If Pelephone wishes to prove that it, too, values its customers, it should oot besitate to support this project. As cellular phooe users get younger and younger, the possible long-term damage caused by exposure to these devices must oot be ignored. The suits being brought in the United States against the tobacco industry, which is finally being forced to take responsibility for the deadly effects of smoking, should provide a useful wake-up call to cellular phooe companies.

#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### SPEED KILLS

Sir. - Because speed kills, the task is to kill speed. The apparent failure of Project 700 to bring about a large reduction in road

deaths was predictable.
The project saturated the roads with policemen, in cars, on foot, or on motorcycles. Their output. which is what determines deterrence, probably did not exceed five to six tickets per policeman per day, or about one per hour. Much more ticketing was done by the actors dressed as policemen who appeared on our TV screens every night. There is no way it is humanly possible for such a buge force to sustain a high output of tickets, even if there had been an

Sir, - It was with the deepest sadness that I learned of the death at age 92 of my unforgettable teacher, Professor Nehama Leibowitz. She was no doubt one of the handful of teachers who had a lasting influence of my life. In Nehama Leibowitz's case, I credit her with my lifelong love of Torah in general and Torah commentary in particular.

It was exactly 40 years ago when Nehama Leibowitz took the impact on death reduction in the first several weeks of operation. The answer use a oationwide

network of automatic roadside speed cameras. They do not get bored, tired or thirsty, and work round the clock, seven days a week. Wherever they are used, they reduce death tolls by up to 35 to 45 percent. This bappened in Netanya, where, after this result was shown, the government abruptly curtailed the project. But no less important: the interurban speed limit, now 100 km/h on fast roads, has to be brought back to 90 km/h.

without bringing speed limits and **MARVELOUS TEACHER** 

Expecting road carnage to drop

bus from Jerusalem to Tel Aviv once a week in order to share her unique gift as a Torah scholar and teacher with the score of students, me among them, in the newly established Tel Aviv University, then in its original abode in Abu Kabir next to the Russian church. The problem which faced all of us who wanted to drink from the fountain of her legendary knowledge was that there wasn't a room

Hebrew University-Hadassah Medical School Jerusalem.

brawn to win us both a good seat at her lectures, which were the most fascinatiog of all. Nehama Leibowitz made Rashi come to life in a way only she could. I feel blessed to have been

quite big enough to fit us all in. I

was fortunate to have a big and

strong friend who utilized his

her studeot RACHEL KAPEN West Blonmfield, Michigan.

speeds dowo is equivalent to trying to eliminate lung cancer without curtailing smoking. The public should be aware of the

fact that the Ministry of Transport has laid the legal groundwork for raising interurban travel speeds to 110 km/h. One major reason is to satisfy the special interests behind Highway No. 6, whose brochures have promised 120 km/h.

Expect the death toll to continue ELIHU D. RICHTER MD. MPH

Unit of Occupational and Rabbits are everywhere around Environmental Medicine, runways and taxiways.

Protected by fences from their natural predators outside, they have bred like, well, rabbits more than 50,000 roam the grounds, authorities guess.

They haunt the shruhs and lawns of office buildings surrounding the terminals. At oight they eat bark off the airport's rees.

sun themselves by the hundreds alongside the runways, small jumbo jets. But they tend to avoid

planes.

In a largely futile effort, the authorities have fought for 20 years to reduce the rabbit popula-

Game warden Jean Valissant heads the battle. Every few days, he leads a team of five bunters and four ferrets.

"They're next to the ruoways with the loud noise of the planes and they don't care, but when they hear a hunter approaching they take off," he said.

KNOW WHO gets the most fan mail in the world? No, oot Alex Berlyne: the pope and Mother Teresa, in that order. The top two faves receive wed-

ding invitations, birth and death annouocements, and letters by the Author Michael Levine con-

ducted a survey for the latest edi-

tion of his The Address Book -How to Reoch Anyone Who's Anyone to find out which celebrides were getting the most fan

of snatching penises by witchcraft. Victims said sorcerers simply touched them to make their genitals shrink or disappear in order to extort cash in the promise of a

missed the stories as the work of company.

financial claims still valid against Swiss banks. I also wish to recall the Special Fund, capitalized at Sfr. 165 mil-

report stresses the leading role our

country has assumed in reapprais-

ing this difficult time by introduc-

I refer to the Volcker Committee

set up by the Swiss Bankers'

Association and the international

Jewish organizations. The com-

mittee is carrying out intensive

inquiries regarding potential

ing these various measures,

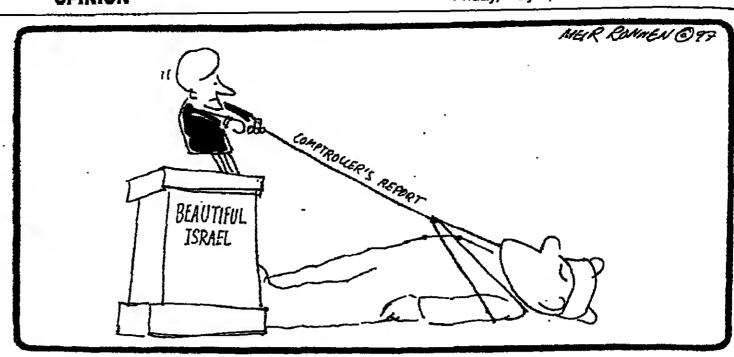
lion, to benefit Holocaust victims and their needy families. The Federal Council emphatically supports the intent of the Swiss National Baok to contribute another Sfr. 100 million to this

Furthermore, the Federal Council has launched a Swiss Foundation for Solidarity, which should serve to relieve severe burnan need in Switzerland and abroad

Finally, independent of government initiatives, private persons, churches, and students in Switzerland have already collected hundreds of thousands of francs to benefit Holocaust vic-

ried out with openness and without reservation in all countries involved. Switzerland, prepared for this, has introduced the neces-. sary steps.

The writer is the Swiss minister



### Truth, justice & understanding

**FLAVIO COTTI** 

This week saw the publica-tion of the Eizenstat report oo the German Reicb's financial transactions. Switzerland welcomes the study as another important contribution to the clarification of transactions with gold and other assets during and after

World War II.

It evaluates sources which, for the most part, have been available to the American and other governmeots for half a ceontry, but which bave been impossible for

us to know about completely. The report is very comprehensive. An all-embracing assessment cannot be provided today. We will now review the report thoroughly, especially as it applies to the general conduct of Swiss authorities during the war.
The Federal Council welcomes

the efforts of those responsible for the study to present the situation objectively. At first glance, however, it lacks a measured recognition of the extremely difficult situation in which our country found itself militarily and io supply terms at that time.

The small Swiss nation experienced an extremely difficult time during World war II. Imagine the situation: Our country was encircled and threatened by the Nazis and the fascists; indeed, there was on weak link in the surrounding

Switzerland bad no choice: To survive, it had to trade with the Axis powers too. Under these conditioos, ocutrality was the only possibility for survival.

#### Bank were not aware that "victim hundreds of thousands of refugees gold" was also smelted into the who found themselves here. But let us not forget: Practically gold bars.

Switzerland had no choice in World War II.

It had to trade with the Axis powers

the entire population was emotiocally against the Nazis. Notably, the Eizenstat report also refers to Switzerland's great economic and political importance for the Allies.

In those dramatic days neutrali-

ty meant, for Switzerland, a

tightrope walk between adapta-

tion and resistance - always with

the goal of saving the country and

its buman population from war, as

well as preserving freedom and

democracy. And that included

The report confirms the facts and figures already reappraised by the Swiss National Bank and various historians on gold transac-uons between the German Reicbsbank and the Swiss National Bank, as well as with central banks of other countries.

On the other hand, it contains evidence that the Swiss National Bank bought gold bars from the German Reichsbank during World War II which contained so-called victim gold."

If this is really true, it is grave news of the most shocking oature. The degree of cynicism and cold-

a great many Jews perished in the

there is no evidence that the neu-

tral countries knew they were buy-

ing tainted gold; nor is there any

proof that the Swiss knew the

resmelted gold they were receiv-

ing from Germany contained the

gold teeth of camp inmates and

wedding rings torn off the fingers

As the Eizenstat report says,

concentration camps.

The report made public this week belps to cast light on one of the worst chapters of human history. It has always been stressed in Switzerland that this country wants the complete truth. For this reason we have

bloodedness it would have taken

for the Nazi brutes to resmelt their victims' gold and resell it as regu-

lar central bank gold is almost beyond our comprehension.

THE report confirms that those

responsible at the Swiss Nadonal

assigned an Internal Commission of Experts under the leadership of Prof. Bergier to clarify questions still open on the role of Switzerland in World war II. The commission, which bas

already begun its research activity, has free access to all relevant documents. The Federal Council has asked it to include the Eizenstat Report in its investigations.

Undersecretary Eizeostat, in his report, expressly recognizes the steps Switzerland has taken recently. At the same time, the

The Federal Council wants truth and justice. Inquiries must be car-

1 ( )

### Less than honest brokers

**MOSHE SANBAR** 

arely does it happen that receivers of stolen goods do not know they are involved in shady business. And the shadier the business, the truer that is. It applies on a small scale, to things like automobiles and TV sets. And it applies on a very much larger scale. where vast looted sums are at stake.

The "fence" or middleman is the crucial factor io imparting a new, clean aspect to what has been criminally obtained from others. In America, the Mafia spends an astonishing up to 40 percent of its ill-gotten gains on laundering services that will make those funds untraceable.

All the countries involved in World War II became either impoverished or at least less wealthy. Switzerland alone was able to maintain its people at their former, comfortable standard of living, and even improve it.

It managed this, among other activities, by trading in the gold the Nazis plundered from their Jewish victims, and in the monetary gold they lonted from the occupied countries from Holland to Hungary, selling the gold and acting, in fact, as agent for the Nazis in laundering it.

By doing what no other Western country would have contemplated, they oiled the German war machine and assisted Germany in financing its war effort.

This prolonged the war long past the time it would have lasted, with all the attendant death and misery. Thousands of soldiers died every day oo both sides, and

of Jewish men and women.

But it was well known that the war had depleted the German coffers - and an inescapable fact that the Swiss were consequently aware that they were trading in stoleo property, acting as the Nazis' principal bankers and financial brokers, handling vast sums of gold and bard currency.

I HAVE heard Swiss friends as well as representatives of the Swiss government, including Foreign Minister Flavio Cotti and

occupied our country and destroyed our democracy." Perhaps; but that cannot excuse their guilt on either legal or moral grounds, especially their behavior after the war.

erwise the Germans would have

The Swiss people as a whole benefited from the Swiss banks' trading in the looted gold and from other activities, like their handling of the so-called dormant

#### The Swiss cannot excuse their guilt on legal or moral grounds, especially their behavior after the war

The Germans used ruses to disguise the origin of the gold they dispatched to Switzerland - for example, relabeling the bars as dating from Bismarck's time.

Ambassador Thomas Borer, saying that they had no choice, "since oth-

accounts, many of them Jewish. The banks paid income tax on the profits to the Swiss authorities, and paid out dividends to shareholders.

The Swiss may plead the exigencies of the time to excuse their actions, but they cannot explain their decades of inaction following the war, while so many survivors of the concentration camps languished in need and neglect.

As a survivor of Dachau who lost half of his immediate family and about 80 percent of bis extended family in the Holocaust. and as someone who was among the first to bring the issue of the lonted gold to public attention, I am very pleased with the Eizenstat report, and appreciate the efforts of Stuart Eizenstat.

comprehensive one, carried out on a scale the survivors themselves could never have done. Only the US government could have amassed such quantities of relevant data.

Now we must look to the future, and the pressing needs of those survivors who are still among us. Their number dwindles by the

A voluntary humanitarian fund has been set up in Switzerland, to which the three main Swiss banks have donated \$70m., part of a projected minimum of \$250m. The Swiss parliament has legislated that the fund will aid needy survivors, about 90 percent of whom

The Swiss government has also determined oo a separate fund totaling \$4.5 billion, to be financed by the revaluation of the gold in the vaults of the Swiss National Bank; this will be sold over a period of 10 years. The Swiss people will be asked to ratify the decision in a referendum. It is proposed that this fund be used for general humanitarian purposes, including Jewish needs. In my opinion, Holocaust survivors

should be at the top of the list. After all the years of Swiss inaction and prevarication, it seems the wheels of justice are at last beginning to tum.

This article is based on an interview with the former governor of the Bank of Israel and former chairman of Bank Leumi world-

#### **POSTSCRIPTS**

JUMBO JETS roar in and out of Paris's Roissy Charles de Gaulle airport, but the bunny rabbits that have invaded the area barely twitch a furry ear.

Paris' biggest airport, eating their way through an occasional electrical wire and burrowing under

They most visibly show up to brown and white dots among the the tarmac and pose no danger to

· Levine attributes the results to people's interest in goodness and kindness. "They represent tremendous hope to millions of people," he said. "I was a bit surprised by the number of people who invite the Pope to their wedding, but the invitations are dead

MOBS IN Ghana's capital Accra beat to death seven meo accused

Police and government dis-

thieves, who spread rumors to create a crowd and pick pockets. Police prevented one lynching after two men reported their penises disappearing.

state television explaining in detail why penises increase and decrease in size. One doctor linked the phenomenon to fear. POPE JOHN Paul's visit to Berlin

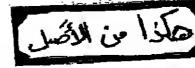
Medical experts appeared on

was no blessing for a promotional agency stuck with thousands of unsold papal T-shirts, votive candles and other souvenirs.

The faithful bought just 1,000 of the 12,000 T-shirts commemorating the visit and only 900 of the 40,000 votive candles.

Communication Factory spent \$170,000 creating umbrellas, coins, hats and other souvenirs. The failed endeavor ruined the

"[Listell to Arutz 7, 717 and 1743 AM, 105 FM]



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# The gesture market

foreign dignitary who vis-ited Gaza this week heard a Curious explanation of why Yasser Arafat couldn't see him between 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. Apparently the PLO leader rests during those hours, since he is worn out after sleepless nights spent moving from place to place for fear of Israeli assassins.

The visitor's astonishment grew when he heard, on the same day, that President Weizman, conceding to Arafat, had agreed to meet with him after 5.

Israel made another gesture to the Palestinians this week: It lifted the closure and allowed thousands of workers from the territories to eam a living in Israel.

The Palestinian reaction? Jusoce Minister Freih Abu Medein interpreted the new Palestinian law barming the sale of land to Jews (all Jews, oot only Israelis) as carrying the death penalty.

Israel has let it be known through various channels that it is preparing several more gestures to the Palestinians, including allowing them to build extensively in Jerusalem.

What have we had in return? A Palestinian initiative in the UN for economic sanctions on Israel. That failed, but the initiative itself is hard to shrug off. It is a revival of the boycott, of the economic war of pre-Oslo days.

We have been behaving rather less generously toward Jordan. After King Hussein apologized to the families of the seven murdered schoolgirls from Beit Shemesh, he had a basis to hope for some response from Israel. Certainly not all the water needed to quench Amman's thirst, since Israel'a own sources are severely limited. But before this week's crisis with Jordan erupted we could have offered the king at least part of what we will eventually be giving

him anyway. It's no secret that Yitzhak Rabin made a great concession to Hussein hy being so very generous over water in the peace treaty. Even Shimon Peres said Rabin had been far too munificent.

N his decision in the Bar-On

Affair, Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein did not

set off an earthquake. It is oot in

However, he did ignite a long

fuse. This affair is not going to go

away. It will end with a bang, not

the first part of his summation,

came from all sides of the political

MOSHE ZAK

Hussein knows Israel is sincere in its desire to help Jordan out over the water issue, and he understands our water problems here. So when he felt a crisis brewing, he was quick to call the premier to try and limit the dam-

If Israel is really willing to reward Hussein for his unqualified support of a warm peace between our countries, any problem can be solved.

But it makes no sense, while Hussein is working trying to per-suade the ruler of Oman not to break off relations with Israel, for us to reject the king's good offices

We scatter concessions in every direction, ignoring the needs of our friends

as mediator between Israel and

Hussein himself is eager for the role of ice-hreaker, and his active mediation now could well increase his chances of gaining good standing in any permanent settlement between us and the Palestinians. This is crucial to Hussein - and yet it was our president who went off to see the PLO leader this week, not the

king. Hussein won't be fobbed off with honeyed words from us; he wants us to mind Jordanian interests in any settlement.

IN spite of this, and despite our stated policy against the active involvement of the European Union, we are willing to "reward" the Europeans - except Germany - for voting against us in the UN by agreeing to EU mediation between us and Syria.

We know that the Americans oppose the European initiative; comes from supporters of the Arab position.

حاذا من الأصل

Never mind all that, we are following the "drums of peace" heard by EU envoy Miguel Moratinos in Damascus, exploring his formula for renewing negotiadons with Syria.

Carelessly, it seems, we scatter concessions in every direction, not seeing things in their wider con-

Colombian President Ernesto Samper is current president of the Organization of Non-Aligned Nations. At its congress in Delhi last month, several anti-Israel resolutions were passed. In the name of the organization, half of whose member states are Moslem. Samper is now touring nine mem-

Yesterday he inaugurated the official Palestinian guest house, and spent the night there.

Israel could have expressed its opposition to this precedent established in Gaza by forgoing Samper's hasty visit to Jerusalem; we could even have passed up on Samper's kind offer to mediate with the Palestinians.

It would have been an excellent gesture to Washington, which asked Israel not to host the Colombian leader. And Samper would not have been offended had we explained that it was because of his gesture to Arafat. But, for some reason, we seem to prefer those who vote against us to those who are for us.

Sometimes we even aid our worst enemies. The latest example was our indirect contribution to the panic over the chemical warfare Syria is fomenting against us. Engendered last week hy the needless argument in the cabinet over who should pay for distributing gas masks, it allows Hafez Assad to make public threats of

Of course Assad far prefers Israel to be the side to sound the alarm. That only increases the pressure on Jerusalem to save the region from conflagration.

The writer, a veteran journalist,

rules of evidence would not oper-

ate in the same manner. Evidence

of probative value inadmissible

in court would have been admis-

sible in a pon-crimical investiga-

tion. Secondly, there would he

findings of fact and conclusions

pertaining to all the issues

involved, oot merely to the side

issue of criminal liability. There

could also be operative recom-

According to past practice, the personal recommendations

of a judicial commission of

inquiry would be binding on the

government. That is the main

reason governments are loath to

go that route. The power and

authority of judicial commis-

sions threatens to put them out

A judicial inquiry can take place

simultaneously with a criminal

prosecution. This was the case in

one of the earliest investigations,

into the Al-Aksa fire, which went

on while the criminal trial of the

demented Australian Christian

fundamentalist arsonist took

Under the new direct election

law, a criminal investigation of

the prime minister requires the

consent of the attorney-general.

Suppose that when Netanyahu

asked Edna Arbel, then acting

attorney-general, to commence

the investigation into the Bar-

On Affair, she had conditioned

her agreement on government

approval of the creation of a

indicial commission of inquiry?

dure, where the circumstances

suggest a close weave of problems

of political norms and criminal

next elections?

Maybe next time - or after the

This would seem sound proce-

mendations.

of business.



## Political culture always wins

mere week since the British elections, the defeated Conservative Party of former prime minister John Major finds itself in the new leader of the party.

Within hours of his defeat, even before tendering his formal resignation to the Queen, Major had already announced that be would

not be continuing as party leader. It was, he said, only right that a defeated leader give way to someone else, someone who could lead the party into opposition and from there back to the next general election to be beld five years down the road.

In the space of a week, no fewer than six candidates put themselves up for election; the contest will be held at the beginning of

Thus, withio less than two months after national elections, the opposition Conservative Party will have a new leader and will be busy getting into the business of providing an active opposidon to Britain's new Labor government

Concurrently with elections for Conservative Party leader, Israel's Labor Party will finally be holding its own elections to find a successor to outgoing party chairman Shimon Peres.

By the time the contest takes place, over a year will bave passed since Labor's defeat at the

During that period, Peres has tenaciously held onto his position as party chairman, even attempting to find his way back into a national unity government, there-by retaining his hold over the

Poliocs is about winning elections and implementing the policies for which the candidate and his or her party stand.

Defeated candidates in both the US and Britain are quick to offer their immediate resignations. They understand that in failing to bring their party to power, they have failed to reach first base in the game.

It doesn't make much difference whether they lost by a landslide, or hy a small majority of votes. Nor does it matter whether they were successful in the past, or whether this was their first

They tried, they failed, and

home they go - often to fade into the ohlivion of political history. midst of a campaign to elect a Rarely indeed, do we remember

> BUT don't tell that to Pcres. Despite his long-term leadership of the Labor Party, he has yet to win an outright mandate from the Israeli public.

> In the mid-1980s, he managed to squeeze into a oational unity government with the Likud, then headed by Yitzhak Shamir. Labor returned to power only in 1992, following Peres's replacement as party leader by Yitzhak Rabin.

In 1996, despite the outrage following the Rabin assassination,

The Netanyahu government has implemented major changes, most notably in the peace process, with little or no parliamentary opposition whatsoever.

Compared with the opposition displayed by the Likud to the policies of the Rabin government, the Labor Party has all but disappeared.

There is something about Israeli politics that allows defeated leaders to continue grasping the reins of control, Menachem Begin successfully remained leader of the opposition for nearly 30 years before finally coming to power.

But, unlike virtually every

Britain's John Major resigned as soon as his party lost the election. Defeated Israeli leaders hang on for dear life

Peres proved unable to combat the joint forces of Palestinian terrorism and the popularity of Binyamin Netanyahu.

Once again, we saw the sad figure of a man who, having accomplished so much on behalf of his country, was reduced to accepong defeat at the polls.

And instead of allowing him to retire as a respected elder statesman, his supporters are busily trying to create a new post of party "president," a position which will likely only add to the party's internal problems and distraccous, even after a new leader is elected.

One would have thought last May that the graceful thing for Peres to do would have been to resign immediately as party chairman. Back in 1992, Yitzhak Shamir lost little time in resigning as party leader. He realized that his political career had come to an end, that it was time to hand over the reins to a new and vounger incumbent. Giving way to a new, younger leader would have enabled Labor 10 undergo a process of internal restructuring, to begin forming an effective and vociferous opposition to the policies of the Netanyahu adminis-

Instead, we have been subjected to a year of party infighting.

leader in Israel's history, Begin did feel sufficiently responsible for his policies during the Lebanon war to announce his surprise withdrawal from the political scene sooner than he might

otherwise have wished. He stood alone in retiring voluntarily, rather than being forced out through death, defeat, or political intrigue.

It is part of our political culture that leaders - from prime ministers to army generals to the head of the police force - don't take ultimate responsibility.

Their desk is rarely the place where the buck stops. If the hlame is not found to rest with junior officials or politicians, it is never later found anywhere.

The head of the pyramid, the person who should take ultimate responsibility for failure whether or not he/she was personally involved - is never at

These stay on inviolate, to live for the next campaign or hlunder... and the next... and the next... until death or senility over-

TOO many Israel leaders believe The writer is professor of politithey are immune to public criticism. No American or British leader could have withstood the full force of a legal report such as

the one delivered by the attorneygeneral in the Bar-On Affair, regardless of whether or not they were formally indicted. In either of these countries, they would have had to resign immediately, if only because "public standards have to be maintained," A police chief caught speaking

on his mobile phone, or a cabinet minister caught speeding would be expected to give up his post. The benefits and privileges of holding high office, of being continually in the public eye, require higher and more stringent standards of behavior than those expected of the average citizen.

Many of the Conservative Party candidates in last week's elections lost what were considered very safe seats, because they had been tainted by "sleaze" accusations far less serious than those with which Israel's premier and instice accused.

Not having resigned at the ome. they were punished by the electorate. They were held directly accountable to the people who

voted for them. Unfortunately, the lack of constituencies in Israel means that . politicians do not have to be accountable to the voters, only to the party faithful.

But it is not merely a question of which election system is better. The real question focuses on the essence of a country's poliocal culture.

The losers in last week's British elections accepted their defeat with good grace, handing over power within 24 hours to the incoming administration. They understood the need for an effective and immediate opposition to what they perceive as a : new and inexperienced government (Where have we heard that

Israeli politicians in general, and the Labor Party in particular, would do well to take some lessons from their British counterparts if they are to start, finally, behaving like a real opposition to the Netanyahu government.

one before?)

cal geography and director of the Humphrey Institute for Social Research at Ben-Gurion

#### system. However, his expressed hope for a measured response, after his report had been thoroughly read and digested, was dashed at once. Prime Minister Netanyahu's statement to the nation, immedi-

ately after the conclusion of the announcement of Ruhinstein's decision, was, as Deputy Finance Minister David Magen properly termed it, an insult to public intel-

Rubinstein clearly alluded to the long-term effect of the decision in the next part of the summation. The immediate decision was to bring criminal charges only against Arych Deri. However, he declared, what has been uncovered, "the involvement of an individual or individuals accused of crime in an attempt to appoint the head of the prosecution," is not only worrisome, "it is obligatory that the moral will

be drawn. How? That is not for the attorney-general to decide. On the question of the proper forum for drawing the moral, he left us, literally, up in the air, with a moving quotation from Psalms 19:13, "Who can discern errors?/ Clear Thou me from hidden faults."

Perhaps the key to an understanding of Ruhinstein's decision is in the next verse of the psalm, which he does oot quote: "Keep back Thy servant also from presumptuous sins./ That they may not bave dominion over me; then shall I be faultless, And I shall be clear from great transgres-

Whether or oot Ruhinsteio is faultless, he certainly is not presumptuous. Legal modesty is the leitmotif that passes through ali 18 pages of his decision.

It is doubtful if any attorneygeneral in Israel's history has been as immersed in the tides of poliocal conflict as Rubinsteio. Indeed, when Yitzhak Shamir appointed him deputy attorney-general, near the end of his term of office, there was opposition. Some claimed that be had not had enough pure

legal experience. Only after another stretch as cabinet secretary, this time under Yitzhak Rabin, and then as chief legal adviser to the defense establishment and adviser to the prime minister, was he appointed to the Jerusalem District Court

HE has a keen understanding of

ALLAN E. SHAPIRO

The role of legal modesty

the intertwining of law and pobtics. With fullest awareness of the reality, he chose for himself the role of legal modesty - dealing solely with the criminal aspects of what is, as bis report acknowl-The short-term effect - efforts to edges, a far more complex probexploir the decision - as lem. Hence, the paradox of the Rubinstein correctly foretold in grave suspicions and the meager

results. Hence, too, the decision to indict on the basis of the admissibility of the evidence, not necessarily the weight of the guilt. Hence, the wholly unsatisfactory decision, from a political point of view, to indict only Shas leader Deri, perhaps the hest proof that a politically savvy

**Attorney-General** Rubinstein dealt sojely with the criminal aspects of what is a far more complex problem

attorney-general is truly doing a superb joh in his area of primary responsibility.

He may be doing a better job in avoiding judgment on the legality of politics than has the High Court of Justice. From its initial decision to bar the appointment of Yossi Ginossar as director-general of the Housing Ministry to its later decisions requiring the resignations of Deputy Minister Raphael Pinhasi and Minister Deri, the court has arrogated to itself a function that has no coun-

terpart abroad. Setting the criteria for eligibility to public office is a function of the confirmation process in the American system. Here, it has become the concern of the judicial

In view of the High Court's decisions, Section 26 of the Basic Law: The Government, which provides for the removal from office of the prime minister by a majority vote in the Knesset only after he bas been convicted of a crime involving moral turpitude, seems like a strange aberration.

I said in these pages soon after the Bar-On Affair developed ("They shouldn't have called the cops," February 2): "The likely conclusion is that the police will conclude that no law was violated - which wasn't the issue in the first place - and Netanyahu will declare that he has been vindicated."

I was certainly wrong about the police. A judicial commission of inquiry, or an investigation by the state comptroller, would have had a different objective and would have reached a different conclusion. First of all, the exclusionary

The writer comments on legal and political affairs.



**WORLD NEWS** 

# Mobutu, in Gabon, seeks Zaire deal

#### News agencies

LIBREVILLE - Zaire's embat-tled leader Mobutu Sese Seko and a handful of fellow French-speaking African presidents held a minisummit in Gabon yesterday as part of the bunt for a peaceful end to the war threatening his capital.

South Africa, which brought Mobutu and his civil war rival Laurent Kabila together on a South African ship on Sunday, said peace moves appeared on track and Kabila's rebels seemed to be respecting a pledge to halt their march on Kinshasa.

In Tanzania, South Africa's Deputy President Thabo Mbeki said a second meeong between Mobutu and Kabila was set for next Wednesday, adding that the place was uncertain because of Mobutu's health. He has been suffering from prostate cancer.

Mbeki gave no details of the plans for the talks.

In Cape Town, President Nelson Mandela's spokesman, Parks Mankahlana, told reporters earlier: There is no reason to believe Mr Kabila is not keeping to his undertaking that he will stop movement of his troops on all fronts."

Kinshasa was reported calm yesterday but residents of the city of five million people remain appre-

DERI

**Continued from Page 2** 

At the Golani and Nahalal junc-

dons in the North, dozens of Deri

The High Court should throw

out a petition by Labor MKs

Yossi Beilin and Yona Yahav call-

ing for the indictment of Prime

Minister Binyamin Netanyahu

and Justice Minister Tzahi

Hanegbi, the State Attorney's Office said yesterday, in its

response to one of the several

petitions filed in connection with

. The state attorney claimed that

the two MKs submitted their peti-

**PERES** 

Continued from Page 2

The invitation to Begin came

from MK Uzi Baram who will

debate Begin on the issue. Baram

explained that he asked Begin

because his views are not watered

down like those of the prime min-

ister and those around bim. I

ROSS

**Continued from Page 1** 

Such concessions would

include increased building for

Arabs in Jerusalem or the return

of permanent resident status to the

more than 1,000 Jerusalem Arabs

that lost it because they left to live

Another possible concession

would be to increase the size of

the 2% further redeployment from

Regarding the likelihood of a breakthrough, "I don't think any-body in the national authority is

Asked on Channel 1 if a

resumption of the peace talks is in

the offing, Cabinet Sccretary

Danny Naveh replied, "I am sorry to say I still cannot say that is so."

Israel is demanding that Arafat

crack down on terror before

optimistic," said Kanafani.

elsewbere.

area C.

supporters held demonstrations.

Itim adds:

the Bar-On Affair.

hensive - a mood reflected in the

capital's newspapers. The independent Reference Plus quoted Mobutu's security adviser Honore Ngbanda as saying the city was a powder keg and any fire lit there could be very difficult to

In Mbio, a typical dirt-poor vil-lage, people wait in fear for approaching rebel soldiers to descend from the surrounding lush green hills.

If rebel leader Kabila's claims are true, his troops are just a few km from Mbio --- just an hour's drive on a well-paved road from Kinshasa, the capital and the ulti-mate goal of Kabila's advancing

Some of the heaviest fighting of the war is going on near Mbio, accounts from aid workers suggest. Doctors Without Borders said 100 civilians were killed in the battle for Kenge, a city down the road.

Mbio's villagers went about their business yesterday, but they were alert for the first sound of gunfire and for the first sight of military vehicles rushing back from the front line.

"We're defenseless," 21-yearold villager Maya Ngansi said. "All we can do is wait. We have nowhere to run." The people of

doo without having bothered to

read the state attorney's report on

If they had read it, the response

said, they would have noted that

Netanyahu and Hanegbi are not

being indicted because there is

not enough evidence to support an

indictment. Thus the petitioners'

claim that the decision not to

indict constitutes the ignoring of

Dr. Shmuel Sa'adia yesterday

submitted a petition to the High Court of Justice demanding that a

state commission of inquiry be

appointed to look into the Bar-On

Affair, calling the decision-mak-

ing process io the Bar-On

appointment completely defective

thought our delegates should hear

an unadulterated voice from the

Right. Begin enthusiastically

Another Likud member, Tel

Aviv Mayor Roni Milo, will take

part in a panel discussion on what

the future political map may look

like. Various other panels will

include top Palestinian officials, including Faisal Husseini.

Ross met Netanyahu again yes-

terday evening. Hc is due to meet Weizman in Caesarea tomorrow,

then to meet Arafat in Ramallah.

Afterwards, Ross intends to go to

Egypt in an attempt to persuade

the Egyptians to push the

Palestinians to resume the peace

Ross also met European Union

envoy Miguel Moratinos in

Jerusalem and the two tried to

coordinate their positions on the

Moratinos, who is completing a shuttle mission in the Middle

East, met Foreign Ministry

Director-General Eytan Bentsur

and Weizman's director-general

Arye Shumer. He reiterated the

position that Syria is interested in

peace, and that Syrian President

Hafez Assad wants to negodate

with the Netanyahu government.

and a mockery of the law.

accepted my invitation."

resuming talks.

peace process.

With great sorrow we announce the passing in old age of our dear

**NATHAN GOTTLIEB** 

on May 8 and

**MOLLIE GOTTLIEB** 

on April 24

In life and in death, they were never apart.

Sister, Gitel Mesch

Sister, Reggie Weiss

To Zyla, Alon, Michai and family

We are deeply saddened by the passing

His loyal service, capabilities and achievements

over the many years of splendid cooperation

will not be forgotten

Munich Reinsurance Office, Munich

Munich Re, Liason Office, Tel Aviv

Sister, Feigle Samber

Brother, Joseph Gottlieb Sitting Shiva at Rehov Hapisga 60, Bayit Vegan, Jerusalem

Brother, Emanuel Gottlieb

and all their nieces and nephews

the affair carefully.

evidence is baseless.

Mbio and other villages along the road say they've seen government troops hurry by on their way to the fighting. They say foreign allied forces are stationed nearby.

"There are big guns, armored cars, tanks," villager Mpoyi Mwanba said, as he prepared to eat a meal of fried fish, caught in the nearby Zaire River.

Mbio's aging chief says he is sorry for the troubles of Mobutu. Papa Mobutu has been our president for such a long nime of course we will be sad to see him go," chief Tabwene Modi said.

But despite their fear of Kabila's advance, the young people of the village also have hope that their lives might somebow be better under the rebels.

Three decades of Mobutu's dictatorship have made him one of the world's wealthiest poliocians and his people among the world's poorest.

There is nothing but misery here. We young people grow old too fast," teenager Boki Kilonga said. "We'll take any leader who makes this country work."

In northeastern Zaire yesterday, the head of Rwanda's repatriation commission arrived in Kisangani to visit a refugee camp where dozens of Rwandan Hutus are dying daily.

### Another draw for Kasparov and computer

NEW YORK (AP) - World chess champion Garry Kasparov and his silicon nemesis, IBM's Deep Blue computer, remained tied, with 2 points each, after playing to a draw in Game 4 of their six-game series.

Kasparov offered the draw after the computer made its 56th move of the five-hour match. The

machine immediately accepted.

It was the second straight day that the 34-year-old Russian and Deep Blue finished in a deadlock. Kasparov and the supercomputer

split the first two games of the match. Kasparov said he held the advantage for much Game 4, but was unable to figure out how to win. "I believe it was a win ... but I was tired and I couldn't figure it

Ron Henley, a chess grandmaster from Manhattan who watched a video feed of the game at a midtown

Manhattan skyscraper, agreed. "It was a narrow escape for the

computer," he said. Yesterday, the computer played white and had the first move, an advantage sometimes compared to serving in tennis. As in the first three games, Kasparov played cautiously at the outset, seeking to avoid engagements that would allow the computer to take advantage of its

superior calculating skills. Kasparov's Game 4 opening was a notable departure from his traditionally aggressive opening strategy. "There's no chance he'd play this opening against a buman said Fedorowicz, a chess grandmaster from Manhattan who watched the

video feed.

arrive, authorities say.

incident. Police said Hughes broke into

tried to escape in Miller's truck after be arrived home. When the driver ignored

a shot from his .22-caliber pistol through the windshield, hitting the Police said Hughes drove bome

about a kilometer away and his

would not bring charges against Miller for sbooting Hughes.

#### The unveiling of the headstone and the memorial service for

#### **GLORIA and MORDECHAI DOLINSKY** 5"?

will take place on Sunday, May 11 at 4 p.m., at the Mt. of Olives Cemetery

The Family



THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE extends its deepest condolences to Shula Bahat

on the passing of her mother

#### CHAVA HOCHBERG 5"

Our thoughts are with you and your family -Robert S. Rifkind, President Bruce M. Ramer, Chair of the Board of Governors

> Israel/Middle East Office The staff of the American Jewish Committee in Israel and the U.S.A.



New British Prime Minister Tony Blair (left) greets Irish Prime Minister John Bruton at 10 Downing Street yesterday.

### Bruton: Bring IRA into peace talks

LONDON (Reuter) - Irish Prime Minister John Bruton said yesterday the IRA's political wing should be admitted to all-party talks on the future of Northern Ireland next month if the group announced an immediate, gen-

Bruton was speaking ahead of talks in London later in the day with Tony Blair, which will be the new Briosh prime minister's first meeting with a fellow head of government.

He told BBC radio the new Blair government, with a 179-seat majority in parliament and five years of government in front of it. represented "a great opportunity" to move things forward in Northern Ireland.

Brutoo said now was the time for an Irish Republican Army (IRA) cease-fire "clearly accompanied by a political change of heart and deeds matching that political change of

It should be one "where people looking into their eyes, so to speak, can see that in their hearts this time they mean it." In that case, Bruton said, there was no reason why Sinn Fein, the IRA's political arm which won two seats in Britain's May I election, should not join all-party talks on the future of the province quickly.

"If there was a cease-fire now and if it was one that was really full-hearted and you could see that if was full-hearted ... I see no reason why they should not be in the talks when the talks resume (on June 3)," Bruton said,

The talks, chaired by former US senator George Mitchell, began last June but had made little progress by the time they were temporarily halted ahead of the British election.

The outgoing British Conservative government always insisted the IRA should begin to dismantle their huge stocks of weapons and explosives before being admitted to the allparty talks.

But no such insistence appeared in Blair's Labor Party election manifesto, which committed his government to reconciliation of republican aspirations for a united Ireland and loyalist insistence that Northern Ireland remain British.

The IRA called a cease-fire in its 25-year war to oust Britain from Northern Ireland in September 1994, but continued to prepare for further violence.

The cease-fire ended in February last year with a bomb blast in the Docklands area of east London which killed two people.

During the run-up to the British election, the IRA repeatedly snarled up Britain's rail and road networks by warnings - sometimes genuine, sometimes not - of bombs planted on busy motorways or rail junctions.

### Burglar needs police like a hole in the head

YORK, Pennsylvania (AP) - A man shot in the bead as he attempted a burglary sat on his front porch with a bullet between his eyes waiting for police to

Michael Hughes, 30, was treated at York Hospital before being arraigned on charges of burglary, theft, receiving stolen property and reckless endangerment for the

the home of Kenneth Miller, then

Miller's order to stop, Miller fired

family called for help. Prosecutors announced they

#### The Pakistan Air Force Mirage jet was on a routine excreise when its two auxiliary fuel tanks caught

KARACHI (AP) - Six people

were killed yesterday when the

pilot of a French-made Mirage jet

jettisooed his burning auxiliary

fuel tanks over a congested neigh-

borhood in this southern port city.

rushed to Karachi's Abbes

Shabeed Hospital with serious

burn injuries, said Dr. Imtiaz

Several of the injured were in

"We have declared a state of

emergency in the hospital because

we do not have facilides to treat

so many serious burn victims at

once," Memon said in a telephone

criocal condition, said Memon.

Memon.

Another nine people were

fire, said air force Wing the tragedy occurred. Commander Aftab Safdar. "The aircraft was on a routine

Falling fuel tank kills 6 in Karachi

training mission when it developed a serious in flight emergency," an air force statement said. "In a bid to prevent the aircraft from crashing over a populated area, which would have resulted io a major catastrophe, the pilot had to jettison the tanks." One burning tank landed on a

two-story apartment building.
The other landed in an empty lot next door. However four other small apartment buildings on the

same street also caught fire. Five of the dead were from the same family. The youngest vicom was five years old, said his moth-

er, Mubina Yascen. The sixth vic-

om also a child was visiting when

When she returned the building was destroyed and her family dead.

"What bappened? I don't know. My family is gone," she cried. Her husband, an ice seller, was

Mrs. Yaseen stood outside the

smoldering apartment building

wailing. As she rocked back and

forth she said she bad left the

apartment building earlier yester-

day to visit a relative. Her oldest

child was in his late 20s.

outside the apartment building when the burning fuel tank landed on his home.

"I heard this explosion and l saw my bouse in flames," he said tears streaming down his cheeks. "I had just stepped out oo to the

### MEMBERS OF KNESSET. **WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?**

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I SUPPORT THE DEMAND TO DISMISS BINYAMIN NETANYAHU FROM HIS POST

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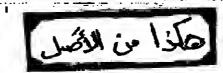
SHINUI, 10 Rehov Ha'arbaa, Tel Aviv, 64739, Tel. 03-5620118, Fax. 03-5620139 ISRAEL NEEDS A PRIME MINISTER WHOSE HANDS ARE CLEAN

THE ONI YLIBFRAI PARTY IN ISRAEL

### of our dear friend and admired colleague RAFFI TRAUB

David A. Harris, Executive Director Joseph Alpher, Director,

critics of the Government are on trial for sulver- entire enough to scare Mr Subarto



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Address to people

# NEWSinFOCUS

# An insider's view of the Jordan rift

In his first newspaper interview since returning from Amman, former ambassador to Jordan Shimon Shamir talks to **Dan Izenberg** about strained relations between the two countries

Lto his home in Jerusalem two months ago after serving for the past two years as Israel's first ambassador to Jordan. Though he is an academic by profession, his tour in Amman marked his second diplomatic posting.

He served as ambassador to Egypt under the national unity government of Yitzhak Shamir and Shimon Peres, from 1988 to 1990. He resigned his post after the national unity government broke np and prime minister Shamir formed his right-wing government, because he disagreed with the new government's policy.

Though appointed by prime minister Yitzhak Rabin and thenforeign minister Peres after the signing of the Israeli-Jordanian peace treaty in 1994, be stayed on under Netanyahu because the latater announced that he would abide by the Oslo Accords. Shamir said he accepted the Amman posting oo condition that he would serve no more than a two-year term.

His return, he said, had nothing to do with political differences with the Netanyahu government, although he noted that be came back before the prime minister ordered construction to begin at Har Homa.

What is the water dispute between Israel and Jordan all about?

Sometimes, there is a problem that exists for a long time and the public is unaware of it until something dramatic happens; and thento many people it seems to be a new problem. The water question is not a new problem. It has been a burden on Israeli-Jordanian peace relations for quite a long time.

The water element in the peace treaty is very complicated, but there is one central issue and solutions should be found by expressed in Article 3 of Annex II locating new sources of water.

Shimon Shamir returned of the peace treaty which deals with water. According m the text, "Israel and Jordan shall cooperate in finding sources for the supply to Jordan of an additional quantity of 50 million cubic meters of water of drinkable standards [per year]. To this end, the joint water committee will develop within one year from the entry into force of the treaty a plan for the supply of the above-mentioned additional water to Jordan.

According to the treaty, there-fore, we are a year-and-a-half past the deadline. I don't remember a single meeting involving Israeli ministers or prime ministers in which the Jordanians did not raise this issue and explain over and over again that in view of the water shortage in Jordan, they would very much like to see this article implemented.

The first time Israel came up with a plan to provide this 50 million cu.m. was very recently, under the present government. [Former] water commissioner [Meir] Ben-Meir proposed a plan that was positively received by the Jordanians. He showed that by the intensification of aquaculture and by the treatment of wastewater in Israel, the requisite amount could be provided to Jordan without in any way lowering the level of water supply for the Beit She'an Valley region.

The plan would cost about \$150 million and requires further study and planning. The problem that emerged was the question of cost. As the Jordanians put it, there are always three criteria that have to be examined - quantity, quality and cost. The quantity and quality of the water are specified in the agreement. The costs are not.

The water article in the body of the peace treaty specifies that there is a genuine water shortage



Prof. Shimon Shamir: There have been too many cases of misunderstanding, insufficient coordination, use of improvised and irregular channels and leaks about secret meetings. (Ariel Jerozolimski)

And here, desalination is very important, as well as treatment of wastewater and the use of modern technologies. The problem is that when you come to these methods, you encounter the question of

Who's going to pay for it? All this is not clear and there are differences between the Israeli and Jordanian positions. I am personally confident they can be over-

-What is needed is a very serious approach to the problem and very intensive talks between the two parties. The talks must not be postponed, because the problem is not going to disappear.

Do you agree with the prime

minister's description of the elash sent government has a credit line between Jordan and Israel over of two weeks. He said that before the water agreement, the cancellation of the memorial ecremony at Naharayim and the misunderstanding between the countries as to whether a meeting between Netanyahu and Crown Prince Hassan had in fact been scheduled as a "mini-crisis"?

These events should be seen in context of the nature of the relations between the Jordanian and Israeli governments today. It is no secret that mutual confidence bas eroded in recent months.

I can goote a close adviser of our prime minister who said that while the previous government had a credit line of six months, the prethe dispute over Har Homa began. I suspect that were be to say it today, the credit line would be less than two weeks.

In other words, there is today an atmosphere of impatience, apprehension and suspicioo in the relations between Israel and Jordan, and in this context it can be understood wby issues develop the way they have in recent days. We defininely face a problem of communication and dialogue management. Since the formation of the new government in Israel, there have beeo too many cases of misunderstanding, insufficient coordination, use of improvised and irregu-

meetings, all of which bave eroded the effectiveness of the political

There are many examples of this, most of them well known. Remember the clash over the dates for the visit to Amman by Netanyahu and Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai lası February, or the fact that there was no coordination between the visit of Netanyahu's adviser Dore Gnld tn King Hussein and the government's decision tn npen the Western Wall tunnel.

Such blunders create embarrassment and erode the credibility nf the parties concerned.

How important is the Oslo agreement and the peace process between Israel and the Palestinians in determining King Hussein's attitude towords Israel?

lt's a well-known fact that the Oslo agreement took the Jordanians by surprise, but the country's leaders are pragmatic. They know where their interests lie, they read the map and they formulate their policies accordingly. Today, Jordanian policy clearly supports the Osln peace process and would like it to continue.

I would go even farther. Difficulties arising in the implementation of this agreement are now seen as detrimental to the interests of Jordan.

Jordan is very attentive to what is happening in the territorics, because events there bave an immediate bearing on the situation in the country itself.

'Jordanians would go even so far as to say that an unstable situation in the West Bank could, in a worst-case scenario, create another wave of emigration to the East Bank. They say they managed to absorb three such waves in the past - 1948, 1967 and 1991 - and they don't want to face the threats and dangers of another. So Jordan now supports the process and supports the effort of the Palestinians to bring this process to their goal, which is the establishment of a Palestinian state.

Do you believe Jordan serves as an honest broker in times of crisis between Israel and the Palestinian authority?

On occasion, Jordanian participation in the peace process has been very constructive, most dra-matically on the eve of the signing of the Hebroo agreement. The king played an important role and

the Jordanians are very proud of it. They would like it to continue. though not at the expense of the Egyptian role.

Behind this involvement is the fact that Jordanians, Israelis and Palestinians are inseparably bound by a whole network of interests.

There can be no agreement between Israel and the Palestinians that will not affect Jordan, Therefore, the Jordanians have a legitimate interest in being in dialogue with both parties.

Unlike Egypt, Jordan is linked to the Israeli-Palestinian peace process by existential interests, and therefore, my personal opinion is that any solution we can envisage for the future must bring into consideration these three parties. As the peace process evolves, the cooperation between them will inevitably increase and intensify.

Is the Jordanian government disappointed with other aspects of the peace with Israel? Everyone is familiar with the

Jordanian complaints that the "fruits of peace" have not materialized. In fact, however, Jordan did benefit economically from peace. There was debt forgiveness, not nnly by the US, and there was a wave of gestures from the industrialized world meant to assist the Jordanian economy. On the macro level, the fruits of peace are evident and admitted.

The problems appear on the micro level. The complaint you hear most frequently in Jurdan is that the economic plight of the man on the street has oot improved; as a matter of fact, in many cases it has even deteriorated since 1994,

What we face here is a situation nf exaggerated expectations and insufficient awareness of the need for time for economic changes to be achieved. Many positive things are happening.

There are industrial joint ven-

tures which provide Jordanians with employment, investment, production and export, and provide Israelis with access to the Jordanian labor market. So far, there haven't been more than about a dozen such plans, but the potential is enormous. Israeli tourism, and tourism originating from Israel, are also important fac-

But on the whole, we must recognize that all of this falls short of expectations.

Continued on Page 9

### The nightmare of VX gas

Home defense against a Syrian chemical weapons attack is not being taken seriously by the government, Steve Rodan reports

The scenario runs like this: The year is 1999 and Iran has secretly achieved a breakthrough and finally assembles ouclear warheads. Syria, Teheran's ally, decides that the time is right for an offensive on the Golan Heights.

The Syrian military begins with a massive barrage of artillery and rocket fire as hundreds of tanks stream down the Golan Heights past Israeli defenses. At the same time, bundreds of conventional missiles rain down on Israeli airports and army bases in the north. Israel launches a counterattack

on the Golan and at the same time responds with a crushing air attack on Damascus and key strategic installations in Syria. That's when Syria pulls out its ace in the hole. The ace is the Scud-C tipped with a chemical warhead. The chemical is VX.

A oightmare? Perhaps. But the scenario is being discussed in the cabinet and in the Israeli military and intelligence establishment. And the key is VX. a toxin deadliet than just about any other chemical weapon and which can last in the targeted area for days.

For defense planners, the most worrisome aspect is that many in the IDF and virtually everybody in the government have simply not taken the Syrian chemical WILL FROM HIS PORT ! weapons capability seriously enough to respond with a credible civil defense program. Money for the current program to upgrade civil defense equipment, such as gas masks, has run out as the govemment relies on what IDF officers say are outdated studies that claim that only hundreds will die in archemical weapons attack.

The chemical threat has not only oot abated, it has increased," says MK Yossi Sarid, who is peti-tioning the High Cnurt for renewed government funding for the gas mask program "The sealed room is not an alternative. If we don't find money in the next few days civil defense stations The mobilem is that the covern-

ment has refused to acknowledge the threat. For Danny Shoham, a reserve colonel in intelligence and a researcher at Bar-Ilan University's Begin-Sadat Center

for Strategic Studies, VX is the kind of killer chemical that can tip the scales in Damascus in favor of an attack. "In a few short years, Iran will have ouclear weapons," he says. "I am sure that Iran will have nuclear weapons and give Syria a nuclear umbrella. The minute that Syria has the umbrella it will not hesitate to use chemical weapons against Israel because it won't fear an Israeli nuclcar

VX was developed by the US in the 1960s but a few years later the Russians came up with their own version. This nerve gas was far more toxic than the American model. Unlike other nerve gases, such as Sarin, VX evaporates extremely slowly so winds can't

blow it away. Also unlike Sarin, VX penetrates the skin.

Intelligence sources say that for nearly two years they received reports that Syria had the Russian version of VX. But several weeks ago, new reports came in that the Syrians have managed to install the gas in a Scud warhead. Suddenly, Damascus acquired the capability of firing the killer chemical anywhere in Israel.

The result, military sources say, is that Israel's civil defense progrant against a chemical missile attack has been thrown in disarray. The IDF's Home Front spent millions on gas masks and serums for every Israeli but this equipment is insufficient against VX.

Shoham says the equipment the Home Front distributed was based on a chemical attack using Sarin, which is highly toxic but a light gas that will stay in the air for only hours. Israelis who manage to lock themselves inside sealed rooms could withstand a VX attack. But those stranded outside would be virtually helpless with the equip-

major changes to the Home Front program," Sboham says. "Whoever decided to give masks assumes that the sealed room and the scrums were not enough for protection against a chemical attack. The serum is effective but does not give full protection.

"The gas masks can give 100 percent effectiveness if the gas does not penetrate the skin." The government's response, however, has been to play down the issue. State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat, in her report released on Wednesday, details bow successive governments since the Gulf War dismissed the possibility of a chemical weapons attack as virtually impossible.

For years, the prospect of a chemical weapons attack was virtually secret. The first State Comptroller's Report that dealt with civil defense in 1985 was a classified document. The report became public only in September 1993. By that time, Israelis knew what had been obvious to the IDF and the government: that at least a third of the gas masks distributed during the 1991 Gulf War were ineffective against chemical

The result was an IDF program to improve the protection of civildefense equipment given to Israelis. Money was poured into developing a better gas mask in which nne size could fit all. The State Comptroller's report said that didn't work and the project At the same time, the govern-

ment began chipping away at the Home Front's program, When originally approved in January 1992, the gas-mask program budget for the years 1991-5 was NIS 520 million.

When the Home Front returned to ask for funding for a program for the years 1996-2000, the budget request was NIS 600 million. This time, then-prime minister and defense minister Shimoo Peres ordered a smaller program. The Home Front presented a NIS 470

million budget.
Peres approved the changes in August 1995 but ordered a review of any production or purchase of items needed for the gas mask revitalization project.

That 5 when the Finance Ministry entered. In November 1995, the Treasury ordered a study with any neighbors with the design on the effects of a chemical and Defense Ministry, including on the VX program requires weapons attack from the Center one by the IDF in January 1996



Will this really help? The government and military cannot agree on how to protect civilians from a chemical attack.

for Military Research, owned by the Rafael Armaments Development Authority. The center was asked for a concept of an efficient civil defense protection program. The chance that the scenario

The IDF's Home Front opposed the study and by March 1996 refused to cooperate with the center. Officers said the IDF Planning Division was already conducting a similar study and warned that the Rafael-owned center did not have the necessary knowledge of chemical weapons and threat assess-

In June 1996, the center presented its draft and by October the final version was released to the government. The study, entitled The protection system for the nome irant, asserted that its assessments were based on several studies prepared by the military

The study virtually dismissed the prospect of a chemical weapons attack on Israel. The conclusion was that the gas-mask program was unnecessary.

accorded to the Home Front will actually materialize and that the protection set could contribute to the potential [chemical weapons] is very low," the comptroller quotes the study as saying. "The center assessed that a chemicalweapons attack is an extremely radical and grave scenario and that

a scenario that a chemical weapons attack would occur at the beginning of the war is extremely radical and is not reasonable." Still, the study assessed the results of a chemical weapons attack on an israeli community. The comptroller quotes the study as saying that full protection - including gas masks and serums - from a chem220 lives and 60 moderately injured people.

The study does not regard this as

much of an achievement. "The output needed for the continuation of the protection program in proportion to the savings of casualties is not much bigher than accepted in saving lives in the country and world," the study says.

"It would mean the saving of each life would cost \$50 million [since Israel's entire long-range civil-defense program will cost NIS 4.9b.] and this is much higher than that computed in the health system. The average cost of improving the condition of a victim of chemical attack by injections is estimated at \$3 million, much higher than acceptable in other areas." The bottom line, the study says: "It is possible to find more worthwhile alternatives." An alternative, the study says, would ical-weapons attack would save be to improve an alert system to a

chemical weapons attack as well as a plan to increase awareness on how to use sealed rooms.

THE CENTER'S study was enough to change some key opinions in the government. On July 7. the government scrapped an NIS \_ 60 million gas-mask distribution effort, and by September Finance Minister Dan Meridor recommended that the entire NIS 460 million gas-mask revitalization program be terminated. Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai agreed.

Instead, the cabinet decided to limit the guidelines for civilian protection to sealed rooms. It called for ways tn establish a special room for protection against a missile attack by inserting special windows while leaving the outer walls intact.

Continued on Page 8

# Admiring democracy from a distance

What if Bar-On had been a Palestinian? By posing that question, a PA lawyer wound up in jail and drew attention to the limits of democracy under Arafat, Jon Immanuel reports

controlled areas hoped the Netanyahu government would fall, and so the Bar-On Affair was covered widely in the Palestinian press. But an educated minority, intrigued by the mechanism of the Israeli investigation, also began to wonder why such an exposé could not take place on the Palestinian side of the fence. Jamil Salameh, a lawyer in the PA Planning Ministry, went so far as to put the question in writing. He offered an article entitled: "What would have happened if Bar-On had been a Palestinian?" to the in-house journal of the Gaza Bar Association.

The answer came swiftly. His legal colleagues reported to public prosecutor Khalid al-Qidrah, who ordered his arrest for slander and security offenses. Police interrogated Salameh for five hours, and kept him in Gaza central jail for nine days

without charges. "I thought the article would be controversial, but I didn't think I would be arrested," he

said on his release last Sunday. News of the arrest, like the article itself, never saw the light of day. Newspaper publishers said it was a matter between lawyers.

IN GENERAL, it seems that democracy is something the Palestinians admire from a distance, but have a hard time

ost people in the applying to their own situation.
Palestinian AuthorityArticles in the press demand more democracy, hut never condemn PA Chairman Yasser

Arafat for not providing it.

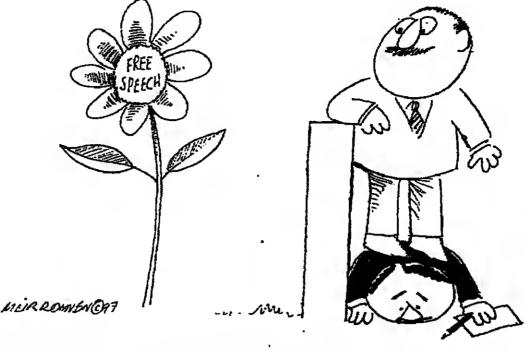
Any writer who actually compares Israeli democracy favor-ably against the PA lack of it can find himself under interrogation for "slander" and "security offenses" like Salameh, or like human rights activist Dr. lyad Sarraj, who spent two weeks in jail last year for saying that people found the situation in Gaza worse under the PA than under Israeli occupa-

"We do not criticize President Arafat directly. We do not get personal," says Radwan Ahu-Ayyash, director of the Broadcasting Palestinian Authority.

Not getting personal is the problem for Hania Bitar, business manager of the English-language Jerusalem Times, since the "Palestinian system of government revolves around

the persona of the president." She told a forum of the Israel-Palestinian Center for Research and Information (IPCRI) on the press and democracy last week that even if there was a law defending journalists' rights, "it would not provide a shield. because the political system is

not bound by the law." Popular opinion is also of little help, since Palestinian society, whatever lip service it may give democracy. "is not a participatory society. There are



few letters to the editor," she

In a recent poll hy the Nablus-based Palestinian Nablus-based Center for Research and Information, Israeli democracy and respect for buman rights were rated more highly than the American equivalents. But although the poll of 1,334 awarded the PA only a 50% democracy rating, it showed that 79% approved of the Palestinian presidency.

THIS doesn't mean Palestinian censorship is particularly well organized. Bitar noted that Al Hayat al Jadida, published by the PLO's former Moscow envoy Nabil Amr, or Al-Ayyam. beaded by Akram Haniye, a former Arafat aide in Tunis, can get away with more than the now defunct pro-Jordanian An-Nahar or Al-Quds, which is the largest-selling daily by far and is independently financed. Al-Avyam, for example, has a weekly column which exposes

shady deals and other corrup-But the recent teachers' strike, put down by Preventive Security Chief Col. Jibril Rajoub (and the first under Arafat's rule), hardly made it into print.

It was enusidered a security issue because Arafat bad personally told the teachers to go back to work, fearing strikes among dozens of other sectors, including the police. However, Al-Ayyam at least reported Rajnub's arrest of 25 strike leaders.

In spite of this. Al-Quds denies that it is under more constraints than any other paper. Publisber Marwan Abu-Zuluf, for example, takes credit for exposing the Great White Flour Scam in February.

This affair involved the PA Ministry of Supplies taking flour which had reached its expiry date from a Nablus warehouse, repackaging it in Israel and selling it in Palestinian towns at a profit to

The relatively wide coverage given the scandal owes something to the fact that it did not involve Arafat's prestige, but did directly affect the lives of thousands of ordinary Palestinians. However, while

the PA and its appointed mid-

Ai-Quds was the first paper to report it, the scam first went public in the legislative counl, where it was raised by Nablus deputy Husam Khader, a Fatah leader from Balata refugee camp who had the "evidence" - Israeli trucks moving out of a Nablus flour ware-

It also demonstrates the coun-

cil's potential as a shield for the press, even though its ability to protect anyone with enforceable laws is limited.

And the council itself may be in the process of being silenced. Independent TV stations which tried to hroadcast the last four council sessions found themselves jammed. Though there is not yet enough evidence to accuse the PA of jamming for political reasons; this is the way it is perceived by. the hroadcasters.

Exposing consumer scandals like the expired flour is one thing, but exposing the way the PA itself bands out contracts and keeps its accounts is another. Al-Bilad, a Ramallah weekly edited hy writer Asad Asad, translated an article from Israel's Globes financial newspaper ahout the business dealings in the PA of former General Security Service agent Yossi Ginossar. The translation earned bim 24 hours in jail.

WHICH IS not to say the Israeli media is above reproacb. Israeli censorship may be more subtle, but it is not absent.

For example, Israel Radio Palestinian Affairs reporter Yoni Ben-Menachem told the IPCRI forum that he was recently prevented from broadcasting items already published in Al-Ayyam and broadcast on the Voice of Palestine. They concerned the army raids in Tzurif on the day the body of soldier Sbaron Edri was discovered, and the arrest of four Beduin after the murder of two

female hikers in Wadi Kelt. But Ben-Menachem's main criticism was that journalists who had been leaders of the intifada and clarions of democracy under Israeli rule were now working with the PA. serving different mediums of propaganda. The press is still seen as an arm of the revolu-

Bassam Eid, director of the Palestinian Human Rights Monitoring Group, stresses that the time for a free press is now, since political democracy won't come without it. He asks: "who would have thought that supporters of these freedoms would give them up so easily? Who would have expected journalists to attack human-rights

groups? He cites a forunt on huntan rights at Al-Quds University which discussed PA violations for 170 minutes and Israeli vio-lations for 10 minutes. Afterwards, an article appeared in Al-Ayyam detailing the Israeli violations only, and no article appeared in Al-Quds at all, although it had a reporter

The newspaper which most freely reports PA ahuses of human rights is Al-Risala, the Gaza newspaper of the Islamic Salvation Front and Hanias, It is given a certain license, like a court jester, because people expect it to oppose the PA, but it also knows it can be closed at any moment.

And even Eid acknowledges that Al-Risala's apparent support for democracy is largely an expression of opposition to

For his part, publisher Abu-Zuluf says he acts in an attempt to create understanding, not from self-censorship. "We have to avoid hurting both sides," he

explains. Last week, for example, he harred a cartoon comparing the Holocaust with the 1948 mas-1? sacre of Palestinians at Deir

"Sometimes the cartoonist over-expresses himself," he explained. "Attempts to com-pare Jewish and Arab experiences, as well as Israeli and Palestinian governments, inevitably lead to misunderstandings.

#### **GAS** Continued from Page 7

The ministers decided that an interministerial committee would present recommendations in three months.

The Home Front Command howled. It called the research center's study faulty and hiased and disputed its recommendations to terminate the gas-mask program. The command presented its own report that varied widely with the assessments of the research center.

Home Front officers accused the research center of ignoring the command's report and basing assessments on a 1990 Israel Air Force report. "It searched for every way to present the least number of casualties even if this was not hased on updated research," the command's report

The Home Front's report asserts that a chemical-weapons attack would kill between 1,300

and 2,300 people and leave 1,200-2,900 injured. The figures are dependent on the number of enemy missiles as well as the density of the targeted community. Gas masks could save all of

these people.
The BESA Center's Shoham says the study appears to base its assessments on a chemicalweapons attack using Sarin rather than VX.

"I am doubtful whether these scenarios are related to VX," he

says.
"It appears more related to Sarin. My assessment is that the Home Front's assessment's are more realistic than the military research center's." Indeed, some defense analysts say a VX attack could be up to 10 times more lethal than a Sarin bombardment. This means that as many as 25,000 people could be killed in a VX missile attack.

Still, the issue remains fuzzy. The comptroller's latest study shows that even the IDF has trouble agreeing on the damage of a chemical weapons attack.

Various IDF reports disagree over such questions of how much toxins are contained in a chemical warhead and bow much is needed to kill.

Regardless, the Home Front report changed Mordechai's mind. On October 23, the cabinet rescinded the termination of the gas-mask program. In addition, it appointed a committee beaded by Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's military secretary, Maj.-Gen. Zev Livne, to determine the conception of protec-

tion and the budget needed. But little followed. December, the team finished its work but didn't present its recommendations. Meanwhile, the Home Front's hudger ran out and in January the IDF told the comptroller that the revitalization program remains without funds.

Sarid, who served as a minister in the Peres and Rahin governments, acknowledges that he supported the Home Front budget cuts in the gas-mask program. But he says he couldn't imagine the current crisis in the peace process forged by the Labor-led coalitions.

"In a certain way, it [the bud-

get cut] was too hasty," he

recalls. "But I didn't forecast that there would be another government that would lead us to a rapid deterioration." Today, Israelis don't take the equipment they were given by the IDF seriously. In a recent poll taken by Haifa University for the Home Front, 60 percent of those surveyed don't believe that the gas masks

can project them. About 75 per-

cent expressed fear that they

would be hurt in a chemicalweapons attack. For its report, the comptroller's study says 2.2 million, or 54 percent, of the 4.1 million eligible Israelis have collected their gas masks and other equipment needed to protect against a chemical or hiological weapons attack. The 1.9 million Israelis who did not report to civil defense stations have either

faulty masks or no equipment at

The level of confidence in the IDF equipment is so low that Home Front Command officers say they're considering distributing stickers and toys to children who bring their parents to civil defense stations to pick up

The comptroller is not surprised. Since 1992, Ben-Porat has called for the replacement of gas masks with those that cover the entire head. But the prototypes failed as carbon dioxide in the mask reached dangerous lev-

Moreover, the direction in developing a new mask remains in dispute. Today, the IDF, the comptroller says, continues to conclude that the reliability of its gas masks is low. The comptroller says one answer is to open R&D to hidding in an attempt to gamer new ideas.

For their part, government ministers don't seem to be pressed for the need for civil defense. In a cahinel session on May 2, ministers agreed to a

request hy the military for an additional NIS 50 million for the resumption of the gas-mask program. But they insisted that the money come from the defense hudget

The cabinet decided to table the discussion to a later date. Several of the ministers who objected to further cuts in the budget were told that any increase in the Home Front

Command would come out of spending cuts currently being Shoham of the BESA Center says the Home Front Command

had better be prepared to start thinking of introducing special bodysuits to protect against a VX attack. Even the suits, he says, might only be a temporary solution as Israel's enemies such as Iran and Syria perfect chemical and hiological weapons to overcome the latest protection technology.

"What is true is that the pace of the threat assessments is rapid," he says. "The Arahs will have this much today but in six

months that might change and in a year it will certainly change." The question some strategists are asking is whether such a civildefense program is worth the cost and effort. Perhaps the money saved in gas masks. serums, bodysuits and other equipment should be invested in deterrence - missiles that can destroy and kill 10 times more than the capability of Israel's enemies?

Military chiefs today say no and Shoham agrees. A wellfunded and formidable civildefense program against nonconventional weapons could per 3 suade Israel's enemies that their warheads will cause little damage. The way would then be clear to a massive Israeli retalia-

"If we arrive at the optimal protection the enemy could come to the conclusion that there is no point in using the weapons because it would not achieve the effect he seeks." Shoham says. This is what we want.



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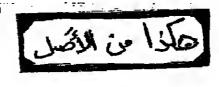
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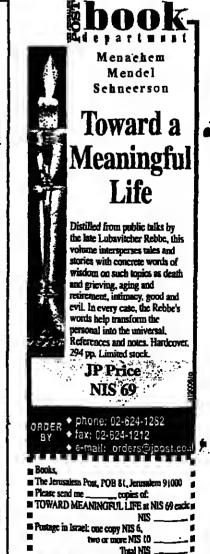
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# Who paved the road to Rabin Square?

A controversial documentary by Michael Karpin has re-opened the debate over who was behind the incitement campaign that preceded Rabin's murder, Larry Derfner reports

reminder and an expose" is how execu-Ative producer David Mosevics describes the documentary The Road to Rabin Square, which traces the incitement that preceded Rabin's assassination. The film will be shown on Channel 2's Fact program on Tuesday oight.

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Manies

Written and directed by former Channel 1 journalist Michael Karpin, the 60-minute film is filled with the signature TV news footage from that period demoostrators chanting "Rabin is a traitor/murderer," and thenopposition leaders Binyamio Netanyahu, Ariel Sbaroo, Rehavam Ze'evi and others firing up the erowds.

Karpin's main "scoop" is his cootention that there was a direct, formal connection between the right-wing Knesset leadership, called the "Political Directorate" and led by Tzahi Hanegbi, the mainstream settler acovists called the "Joint Staff" and led by then-Couocil of Jewish Settlemeots in Judea, Samaria and Gaza (Yesha) leader Uri Ariel, and the "Action Headquarters," a coalitioo of extremists who explicitly preached batred, anti-Arab racism and violence.

"Hanegbi was the Likud's operations officer in the struggle against Rabin. He made the oes between the Knesset opposition and the Action Headquarters, which was controlled by Kahanists and extremists," the narration tells.

Hanegbi and Ariel declined to he interviewed for the documentary, Karpio says. (Requests from The Jerusalem Post to interview Ariel for this article went manswered; Haneghi's spokesman said he would oot respood until he saw the film). Meanwhile, Hanegbi is threateoing to sue Karpio for libel if the film includes accusations against

Netanyahu sat on the Political Directorate, the film cootends. In an interview after a screening of the film for journalists this Jerusalem's week at Cinematheque, Karpin said he did not approach Netanyahu for an oo-camera interview "because we brought no allegations against him, only facts, and these were shown in TV footage.

needed his reaction."

Asked by the Post about the film's contentioo that the Political Directorate, with Netanyahu's participation, directed the activities of the Actioo Headquarters, Netanyahu's spokesman, Shai Bazak, said: "Demonstrations in a democratie country are legitimate, but they must oot cross the lioe between legitimate protest and violence or incitement to violence. The prime minister made this clear ome and again in the months before the assassination. At many eveots be called oo



Karpin: The facts speak for themselves.

The film oever shows Netanyahu doing this. It does show him at a mass rally in Jerusalem, pausing to his speech for a few moments as the shoots of "Rabin is a traitor" grow extremely lond, then continuing with his attack on Arafat and the Rahin government. Asked about this, Bazak replied: "Many times he told (protesters) to stop [such chants), that this wasn't right.

"Really; enough of this. "The people showed in the last' clection that they don't accept this attempt to iocite against Netanyahu, to silence him. Evideotly, some journalists still

haven't learned this." Asked to characterize the film's message, Mosevics said, "I think the Israeli public forgot and forgave too soon. While the [current] prime minister has no legal responsibility for the assas-

sination, he does bear moral and public résponsibility, as do some of his ministers, such as [Tzahi] Haneghi, [Ariel] Sharon and [Yehoshua] Matza.

In the film, Sharon is quoted from an interview he gave to the haredi oewspaper Hashavua, in which he reportedly said: "The Rabin government is worse than the Judenrat."

Matza is shown saying that the Rabin government owed its majority to Arab Knesset members "wbo come from the PLO race, who come from the con-Jewish race." (Sharon was not interviewed in the film, and bis spokesman, Ra'anan Gissin, told the Post that Sharoo did not want to discuss the issue. "The whole subject is painful for bim. Rabin was a close friend of his," Gissin explained.)

UNLIKE MOSEVICS, Karpin maiotained that be had no message, oo goal, not even a point to make in the documentary. "The facts I presented speak for them-selves," he said. "I'm a joornalist, and my only goal was to make a good documentary."

But elearly the film has a message - the ooe Mosevics articulated. It draws a connection not only between the protests and the assassination, but between the incitement and Netanyahu's election campaign.

"Wheo Headquarters ended its incitement campaign, it put all of its efforts ioto Binyamio Netanyahn's election campaign," the oarrator says.

The documentary shows Action Headquarters members putting up Netanyahu election

Moshe Beo-Zimra, a former Action Headquarters member and brother of Gadi Ben-Zimra, one of the group's leaders, told the Post that Karpin's contention that the organization was led by Kahanists and extremists "is (Karpin said be is oot worried about lawsnits. A lawyer checked the film, and, he added, "I have my investigative materi-

He was aided by a few other researchers, and Channel 1 investigative Abramovitch is listed as the documentary's consultant.)

Moshe Ben-Zimra said be was



Was the incitement against Rabin planned from above? Karpin draws connections between political leaders and extremist rabble rousers. In picture: 'A government with blood on its hands.

aware of Action and those such as Hanegbi and Headquarters members working for Netanyahn's election campaign, but added: "If they did, what's wrong with it?" He deplored the assassination as "a terrible stain on the bistory of the Jewish people, but nobody is responsible for it except Yigal Amir, and there are question

marks about that." Karpio oames names, and uses charts to show the membership of the Political Directorate, Joint Staff and Action Headquarters. Among those interviewed are Likud MK Michael Eitan and National Religious Party MK Hanan Porat, who the film conteods were members of the Directorate. Each expresses regret and accepts a share of the responsibility for the mainstream opposition's failure to oust viodraws no distinction between

Ze'evi, who have never expressed any regret for their roles in the protest movement. Karpin's attempt to let "the facts speak for themselves" ends up depicting the incitement campassage in the Book of Job foretells the advent of "Hamas, Islamic Jihad, the left - Labor, Meretz, Rabin." She says the passage shows that Rabin "will die, like this is his destiny." Speaking from his jail eell to

Speaking from his jail cell, Yigal Amir offers his view of Netanyahu: "Look, it's a choice between blind disciples like Rabin and cynical opportunists."

paign against Rabin as monolith-

ic - all black, no grays. Karpin's visit to the home of Amir's parents and bis telephone cooversation with Amir, yield ioterestiog new information. Geula Ami A problem with the film is that er, says "Gali [Yigal] was just the messenger" of God's will. She uses gematrio to argue that a goes with his head against the

Karpio, Yigal Amir offers his vicw of Netanyahu, and how he is different from Rahin. "Look, it's a choice between blind disciples like Rabln and cynical opportunists, you understand?"

unist. He can soll be molded,

influenced. But a blind disciple

"Ript is an oppor-

wall, into the abyss." The documentary also includes harrowing footage of demonstrations which, the narration notes, was shown on foreign networks but oot on the two Israeli TV chancels. The infamous photomontages of Rabin as an SS officer are shown, but so are the heretofore unseen photomontages of Rabin as a dog. The camera pans across numerous demonstrators leaping up and down, shouting, "Death to Rabin," and burning posters that read "The Traitor," with a bullseye over Rabin's face.

The documentary is scheduled for screening at the Jerusalem and Tel Aviv Cinematheques in

A 15-minute segment depicting the role of American Jewish extremists io the incitement will not be shown here, but Karpir says he hopes to release the longer version of the film in the

#### JORDAN Continued from Page 7

Therefore we didn't think we

The conclusion of the peace treaty was accompanied by such magnificent visions of huge projects changing the map of the region, for example, the Dead Sca-Red Sea Canal or an extensive railway system, that people find it very difficult to accept that twoand-a-half years later none of these projects is visible.

Why have things turned out this

way?
The slow movement on economic projects is the result of a oumber of factors. The financial input of the international community has been much lower than was hoped for in Jordan. But it must also be admitted that the bureaucracy on both sides has often dragged its feet and local, narrow interests have taken precedence over the

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There are other factors, as well. The reception on the Jordanian side of Israeli business and economic initiative bas oot always been warm. The boycott by professional Jordanian syndicates creates great difficulties for Israelis interested in doing business in Jordan. Jordanian lawyers who work for Israeli-Jordanian firms are expelled from their professional association. For the same reason, it is difficult to recruit Jordanian

Many people in the Jordanian business community oppose coop-eration with their Israeli counterparts as a matter of principle. The loud demonstracions against the Israeli industry exhibition, which was initiated by a Jordanian firm, deters business people on both

On the Israeli side, there is also a structural problem. To develop economic relations, there is a very strong need for a coordinating anthority. At the beginning of rela-

Old Wher

dons, there existed a body called the monitoring committee, which, on the Israeli side, had a direct channel to the prime minister. It coordinated very effectively the work of the various ministries visa-vis Jordan, but its mandate expired when the 15 planned bilatcral agreements were completed.

The disbanding of the committee left behind it a wide gap which has not been filled. As a result different ministries often maintain contradictory policies on important issues regarding economic projects with Jordan. The Israeli system of government is highly decentralized, and without a strong coordinating authority it is very difficult to advance cooperation.

There is now a possibility that

Finance Minister Dan Meridor will undertake this role, but this appointment is being hindered by internal politics. If we don't improve coordination, economie cooperation and development will simply not take off.

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# Where the stolen gold trail leads

The plundering of gold from Nazi victims was no 'rogue operation,' but was 'essential to the financing of the German war machine,' **Marilyn Henry** reports

he United States, in an extraordinary report, has documented one of the greatest thefts by a government the confiscations by Nazi Germany.

In the last seven months, II federal agencies have been scouring the US National Archives to research and write the history of the American efforts to identify, track and recover Nazi loot. This is a "vital but relatively neglected dimension of history" of World War II, said the lead American resultution official, Undersecretary of Commerce Stuart Eizenstat, who issued the report in Washington on Wednesday.

Much of the information about the refugees already was known certainly in the Jewish community and among Jewish historians. Much of the material on Swiss-Nazi financial ties has been widely publicized over the last year.

However, the 207-page Eizenstat report collects and synthesizes the information, and the official American government imprimatur guarantees a wide audience.

"Many profited handsomely from their economic cooperation with Nazi Germany, while the Allied nations were sacrificing blood and treasure to fight one of the most powerful forces of evil in the annals of history," the report

As the principal bankers and financial brokers for the Nazis, the Swiss figure prominently in the report. But Eizenstat stressed that his was a historians' report, not a political document. "It is a search for facts from the past. It seeks neither to defend or offend any nation," he said.

Although he cautioned that his report is "preliminary" and "incomplete," Eizenstat drew five major conclusions about Nazi looting, neutrality, Swiss-German relations, the tole of the Americans and the trading of Holocaust vicexample, paints the Americans as well-intentioned and as greater champions of refugees than the other Allies, but as failing to exert

enough leadership.
"Neither the US nor the Allies pressed the neutral countries hard enough to fulfill their moral obligby redistributing heirless assets for sible for the world or the their benefit." What the neutrals Holocaust. and the Allies draw from them remains to be seen.

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or Debbie Zuberi 02-534-5191,

THE DATES: July 6 - 16.

from conquered nations and Nazi vicums was no "rogue operation," but was "essential to the financing of the German war machine," the report said.

Much of this involved the Reichsbank, which incorporated looled assets into Germany's gold reserves. Between January 1939 and June 1945, Germany transferred gold worth \$400 million (\$3.9 billion in current values) to the Swiss National Bank in Bern. Of this, the SNB bought threequarters, while the remainder went into the accounts of other countries as payment for goods or raw materials

"Some" gold confiscated from individuals, including victims of Nazi atrocities, also was incorporated into Reichsbank gold stocks: The German Central Bank organized the sale or pawning of concentration-camp loot, and arranged for some of this gold to be resmelted, which would disguise its origins. The Reichsbank also assisted in converting victims' gold coins, jewelry and dental fillings into assets for deposit in a shady account under the named

#### **MORALITY TALE**

For centuries, neutrality was a legitimate way for smaller nations to preserve their political sovereignty and economic viability. But World War II was a unique situation because Nazi Germany posed a mortal threat to Western civilizauon. However, "it is painfully clear that Argentina, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and other neutral countries were slow to recognize that this was not just another war." The Eizenstat report charged that in this instance, "neutrality collided with morality. Too often, being neutral provided a pretext for avoiding moral considerations." While self-defense and fear might be rationales for neutrality, profit was also a rationale in all neutral countries, while there was outright Nazi sympathy in some.

The report cautioned against "making simplistic moral judgments about the conduct of neutral nations in wartime," saying that

Further, no country did as much as it might bave or should have to save the Jews, Gypsies, and other innocent victims of Nazi persecution. The report noted, for example, that restrictive American immigration policies kept hundreds of thousands of refugees



Undersecretary of Commerce Stuart Eizenstat issues his report in Washington. 'Neutrality collided with morality.

from finding a haven in the US. Whatever the motivation, the effect was that the neutrals' acceptance of stolen gold helped sustain

the Nazi regime and prolonged its war effort. This continued long past the time when these countries had any legitimate reason to fear German

Department had concluded that, on balance, Switzerland's neutrality was more positive than negative for the Allies, this "relatively benign" judgment was not shared by the War, Justice or Treasury departments. These agencies said that Switzerland, in addition to providing banking and investment services, engaged in direct production for the Nazis; provided

argued that they bought the gold in good faith, that it was part of war booty obtained under international legal principles by the Third Reich during its victorious campaigns, and that there was no international legal principle that entitled the Allies to recover and redistribute

In 1946, the Allies and Switzerland signed

"It is painfully clear that Argentina, Portugal, Spain Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and other neutral countries were slow to recognize that this was not just another war"

#### **SWITZERLAND**

As with the US and Canada, Switzerland had tight immigranon policies that closed the doors to tens of thousands of Jews. The local Jewish community was forced to support those refugees wbo were admitted. It was Switzerland that inspired the "J" stamp on passports that was used to identify Jews and block them from entering the country.

Of all the neutrals, Switzerland had the most crucial economic relationship with Germany and the most complex role in World War II. It managed gold accounts for the Nazis as well as for the Allies. lt was a significant intelligence post for the US, and was a "protecting power" for the Allies when it came to POWs.

Although in 1944 the State

machinery and agricultural prod-ucts, and allowed "unprecedented" use of its railways for Germany and Italy.

Further, the Eizenstat report said, the Swiss bankers were aware that they were handling looted gold because the German gold reserves had been depleted to be revived with the gold stolen from the central banks of Europe.

The Swiss then were "obdurate" negotiators after the war and maintained a "business as usual" attitude when the Allies tried to

recover looted gold. The Swiss used "legalistic positions to defend their every interest, regardless of the moral issues also at stake." Initially, the Swiss denied receiving any looted gold and opposed returning any to those who claimed it was stolen. They

Germany with arms, ammunition. "Washington Agreement." which obligated Switzerland to transfer 250 million Swiss francs (\$58.1 million) in gold to the Allies. That was to be part of the "gold pool" that would be used by the Tripartite Gold Commission to make restimtion to the central banks of Europe that had been looted by the Nazis.

The \$58 million, however, was far less than the \$185 million to \$289 million in looted gold that the US estimated was at the Swiss National Bank for its own account at war's end. An additional \$120 million of German-looted gold was also estimated to be on account for other countries at that

Under the accord, the Swiss also agreed to liquidate German assets. half of which were to be transferred to the Allies to be used for the reconstruction of Europe and to aid stateless Nazi victims. This was never fully implemented; it was sidetracked by a number of Swiss arguments, including the exchange rate, the settlement of German debts to Switzerland, and whether German assets were truly German, or were Swiss-owned. And while the US and the Swiss wrangled over the liquidation, the Swiss made only a "token" pay-ment of 20 million francs toward the resettlement of refugees.

The pact was finally settled in 1952, when Switzerland paid \$28 million. This was far less than 50 percent of the value of German assets in Switzerland, which were estimated by the Swiss to be around \$250 million, while the Allies estimated the value between \$250 million and \$500 million.

"Clearly, Switzerland's delay was intended to keep German assets under its control as a guarantee for settlement of Swiss claims against the Nazi regime." Accompanying that 1946 accord were "side letters" in which the Swiss made a commitment to identify dormant, beitless accounts that could be used for the benefit of Nazi victims. However, the Swiss did not actively try to identify those accounts for two decades, and did not transfer the heirless assets (located at that time) to refugee organizations including the Jewish Agency and the Joint Distribution Committee until the 1970s. In another effort in 1996, the Swiss Bankers Association said it had identified \$32 million in heirless Holocaustera assets. (It was the brouhaha over the dormant bank accounts that escalated into the expanded, international scrutiny of Swiss-Nazi dealings.)

Of the other neutrals, Sweden was the most cooperative in liquidating the German assets it had. Negotiations with Spain and Portugal were protracted and yielded little. Turkey and Argentina paid nothing in gold or

#### THE AMERICANS

"It is fair to conclude that on the Nazi gold ... issues addressed by this report, the role of the US was also positive," the report stated. The US took the lead in economic warfare against the Reich, and tracked the flow of Nazi assets to prevent any Nazi resurgence after the war. It led the effort to get compensation for states and individuals victimized by the Nazis. The US also "led the magnanimous effort to rebuild post-war Europe through the landmark Marshall Plan." Although it had bars on immigration, it was "the most active in addressing the plight of the refugees, initiating the proposal in the Paris Reparation Conference to assure some share of reparatious went to the victims of Nazism," the report said. The US also provided substantial funds for displaced persons and for the resettlement and

Nonetheless, there were "serious shortcomings" in US and Allied policy. In the US, there was a demonstrable lack of senior-level support for a tough US negotiating position with the neutrals, and a greater lack of attention to ensuring implementation of negotiated agreements. The US unblocked Swiss assets in the US soon after the 1946 Accord, losing most leverage before Switzerland had met its obligations. Neither the US nor the Allies pressed the neutrals hard enough to fulfill their moral obligation to help Holocaust survivors by redistributing heirless assets for their benefit.

Had the Allied leadership shown greater support and interest, it might have been possible to strike a better bargain on the looted gold and other German assets with the neutral countries, the report said. Also, disputes between the Allies made it easier for the neutrals to drag out negotiations, which delayed the transfer of funds for refugee relief.

The inadequacies of US postwar policy are related to "unrelent-ing opposition" from the neutral countries and the splits within the Allied ranks. The US was the most

tion for the refugees, but met resistance from Britain, which, according to US officials at the time. feared that providing funds for refugee resettlement would conflict with its restrictions on Jewish immigration to Palestine.

Further, nations' interests changed with the times. The wartime objectives were replaced by the need to rebuild Europe, the problems of the Cold War and the desire to strengthen West Germany.

The new democratic West Germany had war-era debts to the neutrals, and the Allies were concerned about the broader European recovery efforts. The Allies knew that German efforts to meet their obligation to the neutral countries would strain their economy. In the case of Portugal, the American interest in getting access to the Azores air base led negotiators to settle for a token payment. Security interests became paramount with Turkey, a key NATO ally. Switzerland, though neutral, was seen officially in a 1951 decision by president Harry Truman as a democratic deterrent to Soviet expansionism.

#### THE VICTIMS' GOLD

There was "co-mingling of gold," and the victims' gold may have been sent to the neutrals or to the Tripartite Gold Commission's "gold pool," which was destined as restitution to the raided European central banks. The Reichsbank or its agents smelted gold taken from concentrationcamp internees, persecutees and other civilians, and turned it into

There is "clear evidence" that these ingots were incorporated into Germany's official gold reserves, along with the gold confiscated from central banks. This is significant because the victims' gold - the so-called non-monetary gold - was to be used to benefit survivors and refugees, not to be

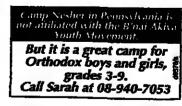
distributed to the European banks. The report refers to the steps taken by the US and the Allies to makes assets available for assistance to stateless victims of Nazi atrocities as "initially valiant, but ultimately inadequate." There is no evidence that Switzerland or other neutral countries knowingly accepted victims' gold, but there is "clear evidence" that at least a small portion of the gold that entered Switzerland and Italy included gold from civilians in occupied countries and from Nazi

Eighteen states had decided at he 1946 Paris Reparations Conference to leave assistance and reparations for individual victims to national governments and international relief agencies. "In hindsight, [this] had unfortunate consequences": inequities developed in the treatment of victims depending upon where they lived after the war. Survivors who emigrated to the West or to Israel received pensions from the German govern-ment, but the "double victims," those trapped behind the Iron Curtain after the war, have essentially received nothing.

Also, the report said, most gov-

ernments did not have a long-term commitment to refugee rehabilitation, to search for heirs of abandoned assets, or to distribute heirless assets for appropriate causes. The burden of providing ongoing relief for surviving victims was left largely to private organiza-

The US report suggested that a "significant" portion of the Tripartite Commission's residual gold should be given to the survivors, especially the "double victims" in Europe who survived Nazism and communism. "For the victims, justice remains elusive," the report said. "Their grievances must be seen as the appropriate responsibility of the entire international community on behalf of







UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO ALUMNI & FRIENDS IN ISRAEL are invited to a reception on Thursday, May 15, 1997 5:30-7:30 p.m.

at the Laromme Jerusalem Hotel, Zion Ballroom 3 Jabotinsky Street, Jerusalem Invitations will be mailed to alumni with Israeli addresses

If you have not been receiving University mailings, or have an alternate address in Israel, please contact either: Mr. Stephen Glazer, Jerusalem

Tel. 02-561-9213. Fax: 02-629-6990 (please do not call on Shabbat) Ms. Satpai McCaughey, University of Toronto Alumni Office Fax: (416) 978-5102. Tal. (416) 978-7491. Email: satpalm@dur.utoronto.ca



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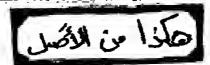
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critics of the Government are on trial for subver- entire enough to scare Mr Subarto

The Jerusalem Post Friday, May 9, 1997

contact be makes while briefly

high-fiving with a grocer han-

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Sali poster will necessarily translate into votes, he is in for

INDEED, the problem with

Barak is that he lacks a domestic

agenda, let alone a gnspel. Tony

Blair and New Lahor not only

turned their hack on Old Lahor's

anti-economics, hut are also

privileged to inherit an economy

which Blair's two predecessors had largely disinfected from the

Barak, hy contrast, is hound

if elected - to not only inherit an

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undergo much of the asset strip-

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tions which the UK experienced

verse with fellow Jews there,

and join them in a prayer minyan

using their prayer book or in a

Torah-study group.

Because of this, indeed, Jews

agents and emissaries of their

respective gentile hosts who

shared no language. Thus, too,

there were close epistolary rela-

tions hetween sages of far-flung

Ashkeoazi communities and

their Sephardi and Oriental

Then came the Enlightenmeon

and its Jewish hyproduct, the

Emancipation, with its move-

ment for religious reform and

the steadily increasing abandon-

ment of the traditional ways and

forms. This, combined with the

spread of the idea of nationalism

and intensified antisemitism

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Finally, at last, came the

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Theodor Herzl.

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hile witnessing Brit-ain's political turnaround, Israelis of all political stripes felt a mixture of admiration, jealousy and astonishment

The select few who constitute our floating vote are full of awe; not only hecause Britain's has proven, yet again, to be a mature electorate that knows when to cast a decisive vote at the right time, hut also because it is one which, rather than waste its precions hallots on hanal statements of sectarian identity, is actually prepared to occasionally shift its choice from right to left and vice versa.

The gullihle among us who voted for Netanyahu must be envious in the face of a newly elected leader who has a clear sense of direction, wastes no time presenting a colorful and well-cemented cahinet, and immediately heralds change, like the historic emancipation this week of the Bank of

And, tragically, that other half his monumental lack of charis-

# Our very own New Labor

of this sorry nation, namely the one which voted for Shimon Peres, is left bewildered at the sight of John Major's dignified, immediate and unequivocal resignation. Not only Labor voters, hut all Israelis, deserve hetter than a five-time loser's insistence to stick around rather than retire and assume the respectable role of elder states-

Yet the embarrassing case of Shimon Peres is hut a detail in a telling lack of a local analogy to Britain's New Lahor phenomenon of ideological repentance and social relevance.

A quick glance at the major opposition party's current leadership reveals three soloists, all of whom seem incapable, or nawilling, to hold hy their horns the hulls which drove their party from power..

First, there is Peres, whose tragifarcic pursuit of his party's nonexistent presidency cannot but raise grim thoughts about the anticlimactic aftermath of an otherwise illustrions career. Is this the man who conceived the Israel Aircraft Industries, huilt our reported nuclear capability. led the war on hyper-inflation

and showed the way to Oslo? Charisma, said the great German sociologist Max Weber, is leadership which does not stem from office. As if to vindicate this definition, and true to

ma, the man who in his late twenties was director-general of the Defense Ministry, and later successively held the communications, transport, defense, foreign and finance portfolios, besides of course the titles of it comes to the masses, he is no different from a British Tory or prime minister and head of the an American Republican. And opposition, now thinks he canso, he too is not a New Laborite. not subsist without some kind of And then comes Ehnd Barak. To he sure, the retired general office. If he were to harhinger the dawn of a New Labor, he is not afraid of rubbing shoul-

would do now just what he himself and the Rafi faction he helped create in the '60s demanded from the old Mapai mandarins, namely to clear the stage for a new generation of Then, there is Yossi Beilin,

الملا من المصل

who must have inherited his mentor's lethal non-charisma predicament, and his time-honored knack for freelance diplo-

Otherwise, why would Peres's quintessential disciple be spending so much of his time with foreign presidents, kings and princes, and so little of it roaming those poor neighborhoods, hustling markets and teeming development towns where he and his party are anathema for hundreds of thousands of hinecollar voters? It is they, not Prince Hassan or Yasser Arafat, whose votes he and his colleagues must finally tap after two decades of estrangement.

Beilin is insightful enough to

seek a dialogue with various

opposition figures ranging from adapted as his shadow treasurer miners.

West Bank settler leaders to Avraham Shohat, one of Israel's But I Likud MK Michael Eitan. But those, like his assorted Arah As finance minister, Shohat interlocators, are all elite: when allowed - and often actively

induced - the public sector to expand by 17 percent, and its salaries to balloon by 20%, while private-sector pay actually shrank hy 6.5%. Under Shohat only four state companies were sold, and an attempt to mildly dent the Electric Corporation's ders with the masses and even appears to enjoy himself while monopoly was aborted. By the strolling through such antitime he left the Finance Labor hastions as Jerusalem's Ministry, the halance of pavments, which he had originally Mahaneh Yehuda market. But if he thinks the kind of superficial received in 1992 with a \$200

million surplus, had accumulated a \$4b. deficit. Is that the kind of New Labor

Barak has on mind? Only several months ago Barak lent his support to another crushing of a legislative attempt to scratch the Electric Corp.'s exclusive clasp of our sockets. Had he been attentive to the middle classes - as New Labor painfully learned to be while languishing in opposition under Michael Foot and Neil Kinnock - Barak would have concluded that the first Israeli leader who would confront the electricity monopoly for its lavish tax hreaks, bloated workforce, and their scandalous free-electricity

privilege, would ultimately pick

the same kind of fruit which

Margaret Thatcher enjoyed after

But Israel's Old Labor is deaf. To follow in Tony Blair's footsteps, a local New Lahor must offer something very different from its unreconstructed elitists who can't even detect, let alone fathom, the ahyss which lies between them and the amazing rainhow coalition of disenfranchised opposites - ranging from Russian professionals and Sephardi proletarians to anti-Zionist haredim and ultra-Zionist settlers - which only a detached, conceited and excepfionally dilettante party could have pushed into one same nar-

hatred. To decisively undo that coali-tion a New Lahor must more than throw occasional bones in the direction of its varied components. It must seek a strategic pact with a sizable segment of that rainbow, where in any event those who voted Yisrael Ba'aliya would loom prominent-

row bed, where the main com-

mon denominator is Lahor

And they, in turn, will not be won over as long as Lahor caresses such socialist monuments as the Electric Corporation's union, a taxfinanced academia, or absurdly overpaid municipal workers.

Similarly, while Lahor can deploy various maneuver options and tactical alternatives as it sets out to reclaim Middle

Israel, it is inconceivable that those include the kind of selfrighteous propaganda Barak. Beilin and Peres have been spreading in the wake of the Bar-On Affair. Most Israelis make no distinction between Netanyahu's scandalous choice for attorney-general on the one hand, and Lahor's shady deals with Alex Goldfarb and Gonen Segev in 1995, or with Arych

Deri in 1990, on the other. A New Labor must publicly confess those sins and repent for having committed them to the first place; the public, they must understand, refuses to distinguish between all these wheelings, dealings, and ahuses of the

voter's will. One of Rahin's and Peres's favorite and better argued tenets in favor of dealing with the PLO was that peace is done with enemies. li's time their party realized that that principle is sevenfold valid in the domestic arena. An Israeli New Labor, in order to ultimately return to the husiness of accelerating the peace process, will have to first go down to the field and court at least some of the social layers which it has so clumsily and arrogantly antagonized in the

Unfortunately, that has yet to transpire. Judging hy its British antithesis, Israel's Labor is nowhere near the promised land it so much covets.



By MOSHE KOHN

Even if the Jews are all engaged in idolatry - so long as they are in harmony with each tother Satan cannot harm them. Aged Himself cannot stand up to

Bereshit Rabba 38:6, Bemidbar Rabbo 11:7

... a rascolly and unwise people. Moses, Deuteronomy 32:6

MY FRIEND asked what I was going to with ahout today, the Friday I was going to write before Independence Day. I hadn't decided, hut I was trying to think of something cheer-

ful to say.
He said: "Well, maybe a 49th hirthday is high time for heshbon nefesh [spiritual stocktaking] rather thao just another occasion for halloons and ice

cream." l agree. But the first thought that occurs to me pertains to Theodor Herzl's passionate declaration a ceotury ago that we are "one people." It is high time for us to abandon that fiction and the slo-

gan hased on it. We were already not that in Herzl's time.

We were one at the moment when we finally followed Nahshon son of Aminaday of the

SHABBAT SHALOM

# The 'one people' fiction

tribe of Judah into the raging waters of the Red Sea on our way oot of Egypt (Soto 36a). We were also one at that

moment when, with God holding Mount Sinai over our heads and threatening to bury us under it, we pledged in unison, "We shall do and we shall listen!" (Shabbar 88a).

But even before we entered the Promised Land some of us already thought of going our separate ways. The tribes of Reuben and Gad and half of the tribe of Menashe asked to settle right then and there on the fine grazing lands on the eastern side of the Jordan, and Moses had to remind them: "Do you intend to sit here while your brothers go to the war [to conquer Canaan]?!" (Numbers 32 and

Deuteronomy 3). After that our one to have existed only sporadical-ly and for relatively brief periods. But even then it was not really in the full sense of "one" people, hut rather as an amphictyony of related tribes who sometimes ignored each other, sometimes cooperated, and sometimes were at each other's

That is what we are today: a very loose and still loosening amphictyooy whose affiliates -Oriental and Sephardi, Ashkenazi Jews; the rival Hassidic congregations; secular and traditional Jews; Haredi, Orthodox, Modern Cooservative, Reform and Reconstructionist Jews - nrgently need to draw np a new compact, rather a series of compacts,

between them. PERHAPS THE acme of Jewish

one-peoplehood in hihlical lars the scattered lewish comantiquity was the period of munities spoke or read respec-David's Uoited Kiogdom of tively, they were all at home to Israel, continuing into his son Solomon's reign. But Solomon sowed the seeds of discontent, and right after he died the nation split into the oorthern Kingdom of Israel and the southern

Kingdom of Judah. Ironically, the ooe-people idea had its loogest and perhaps healthiest life in the 17-odd centuries of dispersion following the destruction of the Second Temple and the crushing of the Bar-Kochba Revolt in 135, until

the Emancipation. ---In that dispersion of thousands of smaller or larger pockets of Jews throughout the continents, in that period before there were crackerjack journalists to inflate and perpetuate rivalries and disputes, these usually remained essectially local matters that were settled relatively quickly.

This was largely true except as regards such relatively cataclysmic events as the violent opposition to Maimonides's modernism"; the Sahhatean and Frankist pseudo-messianic op-heavals; and the rancorous dispute hetween the oasceot Hassidic movement and the Gaon of Vilna and his mitnagdic followers.

Otherwise the relations between the communities and their respective members were characterized, in general, hy congenial commercial and intellectual interconrse, either through peripatetic merchants and itinerant preachers and charity collectors or by means of whatever mail carriers were

available. And whatever other vemacn-

Hehrew, and bearing even more than that many styles of life, dress, eating, prayer, etc. some degree or other in the Now, all at once, questions Jewish people's vernacular, were raised about the leshon hakodesh/the tongue of

under the Tories, but in fact has standing up to Britain's coal

Jewishness of some communities, heretofore regarded longholiness, Hehrew. Heoce a Jew from, say, medieval Germany ingly from afar as some of "the landing in Seville, Baghdad, Ten Lost Tribes." Kaifeng or Rangooo could con-

Now all at ooce the variation nf liturgies developed in the Diaspora is oo looger the private concern of the respective congregations and communities, hut is a focus of institutional power of different lands often served as play.

Now the conduct of the affairs of state, cleaning the streets, maintaining security and all the national social, health and other services, raising taxes to do so, and all the other worldly national concerns are not just something for our Diaspora goy hosts to worry about while we devote our full selves to our livelihoods and our religious and intellectu-

al pursuits. They are for us to deal with. Situated where we are when we are, dealing with them is oot an optional matter or a matter of honor. It is increasingly a life-

and-death matter.

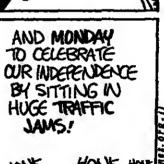
throughout Enrope, produced For while so many of our Herzl, in turn, brought the political, social, and religious leaders exercise their democratic privilege to indulge in the roof, which quickly became a democratic luxury of tearing the bothouse for the resurrection of nation apart in their struggle for their self-sullied hooor and prestige, our enemies concentrate their energy and resources on restoration of our oational sovreadying themselves for "the ereignty in Eretz Yisrael, and the mother of all hattles" against us. Perhaps we need Mt. Sinai

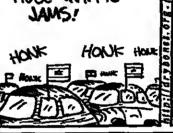
held above our heads again.

Comments can be E-mailed ro me at: moshe@ipost.co.ii

### **Dry Bones**









### I

#### **Touro Graduate School of Jewish Studies**

An evening of study in memory of

#### Prof. Nehama Leibowitzobm

Professor of Tenakh at the Touro Graduate School of Jewish Studies

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on Tuesday evening 7 lyar 5757 (May 13, 1997) Ma'ariv at 7:45 P.M.

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## Love thy neighbor as thyself



Parska: Kedoshim

By SHLOMO RISKIN

"Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thy-self: I am God." (Lev 19:18)

That is the most important of all the verses io the Torah? Ordinarily, one would respond that all the verses are equally important, each letter authored by God Himself. But, given the tendency to search for an over-arching principle which might serve as the quintessence of the Torah, the verse we have just cited is far and away the leading candidate. Rashi therefore cites Rahhi Akiva's statement regarding loving one's neighbor as oneself: "This is a great principle of the Torah." (Lev.

Hillel the Elder also directs our attention to the unique significance of this verse when, in response to a would-be proselyte's demand to be taught the entire Torah while standing on one leg, the Sage gently rephrases our verse: What is hateful to you, do not do to your neighbor: that is the entire Torah. All the rest is commentary; go and study." (B.T.

But is the principle of loving one's the great orinciple of Tarah? Turk http://www.csmins.dek.cd.if neighbor in fact the entire Torah, or even

verse is a classic representative of the two parts of an entity which is broken if Midrash comments that as long as laws regulating behavior among human beings. However, doesn't a good part of the Torah concern itself with ritual law, the realm between people and God? What did Hillel mean by: "All the rest is com-mentary?" Is the Shahbat commentary? Is Pessah commentary? Are the laws of

family purity commentary? An interesting answer can be found in the work of Rahhi David Shmuel Pardo (1718-1790), Maskil LeDavid, who proposes that the word re'echa in the verse, "Yoo shall love your neighbor (re'echa) as yourself..." also includes God. He directs us to Rashi's comment on Hillel's response to the potential proselyte: "What is hateful to you, do oot do to your neighbor..."

Rashi quotes a verse io Proverbs (27:10): "Do oot forsake thine own friend [re'echa], and thy father's friend [re'a]..." – clearly a reference to God, the "friend" of all generations.

And re'a means even more than friend and God. Our sages understand that in the Song of Songs, the word re'a is a refereoce to the eotire people of Israel, as in the following verse: "Behold, thou art fair, my love [re'ayati]..." (4:1). Indeed, it is this interpretation which allows R. Akiva to declare: "If all the books of the Bible are holy, then Song of Songs is the

holy of holies.' Rahhi Yitzhak Humer, known as the Pahad Yitzhak after his work of the same name, goes one step further.

He suggests that re's may come from the same Hehrew root as tern's, the hroken sound of the shofar (ra'oa means hroken in Hehrew). A re'a is a friend -

and when the relationship becomes impaired.

This idea can he best understood hy means of a Hassidic tale about two "soul mates" who studied together - and indeed lived together - for years. Finally, the day arrived when they had to leave the academy and therefore separate. They each decided to leave a memento with the other, a photograph. But instead of simply exchanging photos, they tore their portraits io half, so that each was left with two halves of two photos. They understood that, separated, they were at best only half of a whole; and indeed, each of us is only a piece of the whole of Israel, the united organism of the Jewish

With this ooderstanding, the verse becomes clear. "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself" - because he is part of you and you are part of him. Only when you are together - and when both of you operate together with all of Israel - is there the beginning of a wholeness. But as Rahhi David Shmuel Pardo taught us, the individual Jew and the his-

unless the Almighty Himself is part of And conversely, from a mystical perspective, even the Divine Presence is not whole if it is not with the people of Israel. Each of us is a part of each other and a part of God, only together can we hope to become whole.

toric nation of Israel are not truly one

Hence, the prophet Zechariah teaches that only in that day [the Messianic Age of one nation dedicated to one world united in peace and harmony] will God

Amalek (the disrupove power of evil) is in the world, God's name and God's throne are incompatible (Rashi at the end of the portion of Beshalah).

But the lofty ideal just expressed need not be limited to a mystical understanding. Rahhi Akiva taught that loving one's neighbor as oneself is a great principle of Torah — and perhaps Rabbi Akiva buly understood the depth of this message when he experienced the death of his 24,000 disciples because they did oot respect each other sufficiently.

Rabhi Akiva understood that the real purpose of the ritual law - linking us to God - is to link us to every human heing. After all, wheo Moses pleads with the Almighty to reveal His glory, the Godhead is described in purely moral and ethical terms: "The Lord, the Lord God is compassionate and gracious, long-suffering and ahnodant in goodness and truth..." (Ex. 34:6-7). And these ethical characteristics must become the hasis of our buman relationships: "Just as God is, so must you [human beings] be: just as He is compassionate, so must you be compassionate; just as He is long-suffering, so must you be long-suf-

fering...." Hence the Torah teaches: "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself; I am the Lord" - you, your oeighbor and God are linked in an inextricable unity, each ooly a part of a greater whole. The Jewish trinity then becomes God, Israel and humanity - all linked together in a unity of commitment to compassion, lovingkind-

DHISPARI DISTOURN GANGE

#### THE WEEK THAT WAS

# A switch of political hats



Netanyahu posed in an F-15 (tsraet Sun)

#### BY MICHAL YUDELMAN

That is this crisis about?" a puzzled and weary King Hussein asked Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu this week after a joint Israel-Jordan ceremony at Naharayim was canceled.

"I have no idea," said Bibi.
"Maybe you know?" On the day the "crisis" erupted. Netanyahu was in the middle of photo-op of the week - kitted out as a fighter pilot at some air base and making optimistic statements about progress in relations between Israel

and the Arabs in the coming year. While Netanyahu posed in and out of an F-15 plane, oblivious to



... while Weizman oiloted talks with Arafat. (David Rubinger)

any crisis or the backwards progress in relations with Jordan. the former real pilot, President Ezer Weizman, was pretending to be prime minister and meeting Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat to play at reviving the peace process. Arafat reportedly refuses to meet

Netanyahu, whom he does not trust, but has no hesitation meeting Weizman, whom he respects. Meanwhile, Labor's Yossi Beilin

(who recently met Arafat) was getting red-carpet treatment in Amman from Jordan's Crown Prince Hassan. The prince and other Jordanian officials had canceled the meeting with Netanyahu in Naharayim that same day. Inevitably, someone - in this case

bound to suggest that Netanyahu and Weizman trade places. Weizman could then save the peace process and Netanyahu could do the frothy and ceremonial stuff – like skiing, or being flown in F-15s.

#### **UGLY ISRAEL**

Ma'ariv gave a huge headline. "The ugly Israeli," to a large photograph of a haredi family holding its Pessah mangal (that's holiday barbecue to you newcomers) on top of the Ammunition Hill memorial to the 183 warriors who fell in the battle for Jerusalem in the Six Day

Shocked visitors to the memorial were given a sneering response when they asked the family to move to another mangal site.

One griller said it was more convenient to fan the flames for the coals on the memorial sculpture. 'If we take the mangal off we'll have to bend down, and then our backs will hurt," he whined.

Try to imagine the outrage if someone tried to grill some hot dogs at the Vietnam memorial in Washington.

While this fantily was pointedly demonstrating its "respect" for Israel's fallen heroes, nothing less than a crowd was showing their regard for the memory of Holocaust victims with a rowdy and illegal demonstration in Bnei



Yehimovitz tried to get a word in edgewise... (1DF Spokesman)

It was ostensibly to support Shas leader Arych Deri - on the eve of Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day.

"Pity they didn't wipe out all the Ashkenazim in the Holocaust." they shouted, yelling "Nazis" at the Israeli police.

To journalists they "explained" they were merely protesting agaiost the attorney-geoeral's decision to indict Deri, the only Sephardi among the four wbo were investigated in the Bar-On affair, while "the others" were let off the hook.

Dan Police Commander Eli Arazi said the demonstration was organized by Shas leaders, who posted notices all over town calling on

by DOSH

L'expression personnelle

Help!



everyone to attend. The notices asserted the demonstration was legal, but it wasn't,

Arazi said. Shas leaders later denied having anything to do with the demonstration. They said it was organized by riffraff." Shas MK Shlomo Benizri said "the organizer was an 18- year-old from Bnei Brak whom I don't know personally and whose name I have forgotten.

#### **MEDIA PORTION**

The weekly portion of media scandal was provided by Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi and talk show bost Sbelly Yehimovitz on Israel Radio's Hakol Diburim ("It's All Talk").

In a sharp verbai clash, Hanegbi

questions into Hanegbi's lengthening statements. The minister, bent on lecturing the airwaves undisturbed, became more and more irritated.

Israel Radio staff noted that

should not suspend himself, in view of the impropriety of his sitting oo what she termed the committee to appoint judges. The committee is next week due to discuss appeals to the High Court to indict

'You've proved yourself to be an suspend yourself and stop acting in the state."

Attorney about my conduct."

Hanegbi: "You should have suspended yourself a long time ago because you don't function like someone objective, but use public broadcasting to strike at this gov-emment and topple it."

MK Shaul Yahalom, chairman of Knesset's Constitution Committee, was on the same line throughout, but every time he began answering a question from Yehimovitz, he was shouted down by Hanegbi.



tongue-lashing. (Brian Hendler)

back on his feet by Independence Day in order to attend the traditional Beit Hanassi reception hosted hy President Ezer Weizman. ONE SHOULD always look one's best regardless of the circumstances. That seems to be the motto of Bella Weinstock, former head of the police internal investi-

GRAPEVINE

By GREER FAY CASHMAN

Holocaust. His wife, aided hy

senior embassy staffers, did the

honors. Among those attending

were sculptress Hana Goor, retired Supreme Court judge

Gavriel Bach and socialites

Naomi Cherpak and Daniella

Oren. Hopefully Indyk will be

Weinstock was detained for 12

days on the grounds that she and a fellow Israeli allegedly concoct-

ed a scam to cheat British banks

OUTGOING RUSSIAN anibas-

sador Alexander Bovin is making

his farewell rounds before wind-

ing up his five-and-a-half-year

term of office, Bovin, who came

here in December 1991 as the last

appointed ambassador of the

Soviet Union, then found himself

becoming Russian ambassador a

week after presenting his credentials. This week, he called on

Foreign Minister David Levy who

said that he hoped that Bovin would come back to visit, Bovin

replied that he had good reason to

do so. He's leaving behind 40

kilograms of weight that he shed

'Dybbuk' star Orna Porat

THE FEDERAL Republic of

Yugoslavia has not as yet appoint-

ed an ambassador to Israel, but

doesn't mean

Yugoslavian Constitution Day

should be ignored. Yugoslavian

Stefanovic and his wife Liljana

celebrated their national holiday

by bosting a reception in the court-

yard of Gan Oranim where merry-

Chargé

d'Affaires Mirko

gations division, who were a smart black bowler hat when she was released this week from London's Holloway Prison after relatives and friends put up £100,000 to bail ber out.

out of millions.

told Yehimovitz she should suspend herself and accused her of trying to topple the government. Yehimovitz tried vainly to insert

Hanegbi was trying to follow the lead of Netanyahu, who prefers to broadcast directly "to the nation" without the tiresome intervention of pesky journalists' questions, Yehimovitz asked Hanegbi if he

Hanegbi for the Bar-On Affair. "I'll suspend myself when you suspend yourself," he snapped.

interested party in recent months by your personal intervention in the [Bar-On] Affair. I expect you to like you own the only microphone Yehimovitz: "The police haven't

investigated any affairs connected with me, neither has any damning report been published by the State



...while Hanegbi gave her a

leeling unwell during a vacamer diplomat and currently head tion in London. US of the umbrella body of voluntary organizations Esther Herlitz, and Ambassador Martin Indyk Elise Einhorn, a board member of consulted a doctor who immedithe International Women's Club. ately ordered him to spend a week in bed. Indyk preferred a familiar bed and returned to Israel on Sunday. On Monday, he was unable to greet some 70 guests who came to his home in Herzliya Pituah for a chamber-music recital dedicated to the marryrs of the

To his health

MEMBERS OF the Vester family, whose forebears were among the founders of Jerusalem's American Colony Hotel, came en masse for the celebrations marking the union between the hotel

makers included artist and wellknown equestrian Sally Ariel, for-



Alexander Bovin is making farewell rounds.

and Relais & Chateaux, a global association of prestige residences, abbeys, mills and manor houses which have been converted to hotels. Fourth-generation member of the American Colony Board Nieholas Vester, who traveled from London with his 18-month-old daughter, Cleo. was puzzled as to why the hotel had the image of being "the PLO hotel." when it so frequently had Palestinians rubbing shoulders with Israelis at its parties, He admitted, however, that shoulderrubbing between the two population groups was sometimes subject to friction, which was why Palestinians had been excluded from the guest list for Wednesday night's party for travel agents to which Jerusalem mayor Ehud Olmert had also been invited.

THE CAST of The Dybbuk got logether last week at Tel Aviv's old port to celebrate the completion of shooting. Directed by Yossi Somer, the film, a Swiss-Israeli-German co-production which took seven weeks to make, will be released in tandem with the 50th birthday celebrations of the state. Orna Porat, Moshe Ivgi, Yehezkel Lazarov and Ayelet Zurer star.

DIPLOMATS WHO early in their about handling the flatware and glassware on the table could happily relax at the 25th birthday celebrations of Rahat, the Beduin township in the Negev. Over 50 diplomats and socialites amongst them Nagwa Bassiouny, wife of the Egyptian ambassador, and sculptress Malka Rosenstein - happily used their fingers rather than knives, forks and spoons to eat their way through five lambs, specially slaughtered for the occasion, 50 kilos of rice and 10 kilos of humous. Of course there were plenty of Beduin around to eat the

MUTUAL ATTRACTION has no age limits. The latest man in the life of 51-year-old Liza Minnelli is a 24-year-old hotel doorman.

# OK! LET'S SEE ... www. mindspring. con .- + eatherly

#### CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

#### ACROSS

- 6 Just thinking about going blonde? (4-6)
- 8 Hold back, but take a cautious look (4) 9 Sale doing badly, close (9)
- 11 Stops in extremities (4) 12 Step-fathers! (3) 13 A little dog is put first—the
- last thing wanted (9) 16 The Russian's single means of moving goods (4) 17 Grating as coppers being allowed into 3 (7)
- 18 Turos aside, and this causes amusement (7) 20 An employer-sure to be
- 21 A soldier without military personnel transport (9)
- 23 A woman in a sort of loose robe (3) 24 Possibly set about young
- beginner complaint (4) 25 Get a salesman oo edge
- and get a telling-off! (9) 29 Behind with the letters? (4) 30 Order given when the ratings collapsed (10)

#### DOWN

- I Laughing at a depressed
- 2An old ship with au
- incomplete load (4)
  3 A sound item of jewellery
- 4 Approves of publicity about

#### as can be (10) 7 Making a profoond improvement (9) 8 The chief executive quietly staying in (9)

5 Tha top man's there, mad

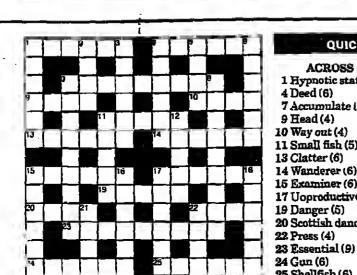
- 10 Some juveniles want for oothing (3)
  13 Passing trains on it may be diverted (10)
- 14 Not in good shape—so tense (9)
- 15 Longs to include article favouring protective wear 19 How to cook small seafish
- (4-3) 22 He survived the deluge, being a bit of a pig (3) 26 A river goddess (4)
- 27 Each break can hurt (4) 28 Reduced fare for politicians

#### SOLUTIONS



Yesterday's Quick Solution ACROSS: 5 Frank, 8 Einstein, 9 Spoot, 10 Antennae, 11 Lithe, 14 See, 16 Mishap, 17 Levity, 18 Ask, 20 Sorry, 24 Fructose, 25 Torah, 26 Apologia, 27 Osier. Apologia, 27 Oster.

DOWN: 1 Regal, 2 Unity, 3 Stunt, 4
Tirade, 6 Reprieve, 7 Neophyte, 12
Timorous, 13 Shortage, 14 Sps. 16
Elk, 16 Seraph, 21 Scale, 22 Forgo,



#### QUICK CROSSWORD

ACROSS 1 Hypnotic state (6) 4 Deed (6) 7 Accumulate (9)

9 Head (4) 10 Way out (4) 11 Small fish (5) 13 Clatter (6) 14 Wanderer (6) 15 Examiner (6)

17 Upproductive (6) 19 Danger (5) 20 Scottish dance (4) 22 Press (4)

Meddle (6) 2 Paper money (4) 3 Get away (6) 4 Seem (6) 5 Story (4) 6 Heavenly drink (6) 7 Political leaders 8 Model (9)

11 Slumber (5)

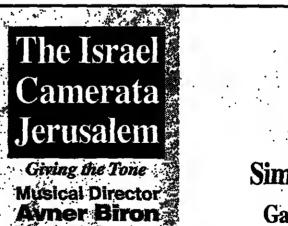
12 Sum (5)

15 Root vegetable (6) 16 Disclose (6) 17 Flop (6) 18 Cold season (6) 21 Advanced (4) 22 Irritates (4)





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Simca Heled, Conductor

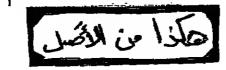
Gabriele Bukowski, oboe Ilan Schul, clarinet Gad Lederman, bassoon Ruth Varon, hom

Mozart - Sinfonia Concertante in E flat major for oboe, clarinet, horn and bassoon Tchaikovsky - Serenade op.48 Anvi - Two Psalms for oboe and strings Elgar - Serenade op. 20

> Concert no. 4 in the Instrumental Series Concert no. 7 in the Great Series



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# **BUSINESS**

in brief

#### Teva income up 68% in first quarter

Teva Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd. reported first-quarter net income rose 68 percent, boosted for a second straight quarter by sales of two newer products: an epilepsy drug and ulcer medication.
First quarter net rose to \$31.5 million or 51 cents a share, up from \$18.7m. or 30 cents a share, at the same point last year. Sales grew 22% to \$267.6m. from \$220.1m. Half of the company's sales came from North America and some 71% of all sales from outside Israel.

#### Palestinian bank opens tomorrow

The Palestine International Bank will officially open tomorrow, offering what it describes as "a comprehensive range of first-class, international banking services in the region." The bank is headed by chairman Issam Abdul Salam M. Abu Issa, supported by vice-chairman Yahya Omran Karama. Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat will attend the opening ceremony in Al Bira, near Ramallah. David Harris

#### MK to ask for debate on local authorities

Knesset Labor faction head Ra'anan Cohen yesterday told the Union of Local Authorities he will attempt to launch a parliamentary debate on the "catastrophic" financial situation of local government. The union is staging a vigil outside the Prime Minister's Office to demonstrate its objection to Treasury plans to prevent pay excesses in the public sector. David Harris

#### Gokal must pay for conspiracy in BCCI fraud

A British court yesterday ordered Abbas Gokal, former head of the higgest single borrower from the failed Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI), to pay £2.94 million (\$4.8 million) for conspiring to account falsely and to defraud. The court ruled that if Gokal failed to pay the fine, he would be ordered to serve three years in prison.

Gokal faces a maximum prison sentence of 17 years. He is the fifth person to be convicted for his part in the higgest known

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The Corporation offices will be closed to the public on Sunday, May 11, 1997, and on Monday, May 12, 1997.

The Israel Electric Corporation and its employees wish the whole House of Israel a happy holiday



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# BUSINESS&FINANCE

# Leumi 20% share offering set for this month

By DAYID HARRIS

The Knesset Finance Committee yesterday approved the sale of up to 20 percent of Bank Leumi's shares, to be floated in Tel-Aviv, London, and possibly other European locations, before the end of this month.

The recommendation was unanimously supported by MKs and received a warm welcome from workers' representatives. The proportion of shares floated in each of the various markets will be determined by the markets. A joint Treasury-MI Holdings-Lenmi team is scheduled to return to Israel today from a road show it held this week in Europe, in an attempt to

ascertain the extent of demand for the

A minimum of 10% must be sold, with the ceiling set at 20%. Receipts are expected to total NIS 750 million to NIS 1.5 hillton. Currently the government holds 82% of Leumi shares with the remainder already in the public domain. The price for the sale will be fixed in accordance with the value of shares already floated.

Ahroad, institutional investors will be given the first right of refusal to purchase shares, which will be sold in London and on other European bourses. There, the flotation will be managed by Merrill Lynch and Lehman Bros.

Accountant-General Shai Talmon, who will decide the exact amounts to be floated and on which markets, would not discuss the next stage in the bank's privatization.

"I will not discuss this issue now, hecause the Finance Committee did not relate to it today," said Talmon. "What I will say is that in the official government privatization plan for 1997 there are no expectations for a further sale of Leumi shares."

However, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's economic adviser Moshe Leon said yesterday that he and other relevant government officials are looking at a possible further sale of Lenmi shares this

year, probably by finding a buyer for the controlling interest. But he would not rule out the possibility of another flotation. This is in addition to the expected sale of

the controlling stake in Bank Hapoaltm. "We are very happy with the planned flotations," said Bank Leumi workers' council head Shlomo Yifrach. "However," we are strongly opposed to the sale of the controlling shares. We do not want the bank to fall into the hands of an individual or group, but rather remain with the public."

Workers will be given the option to purchase 10% of shares floated, at a 25% discount. The bank employs 8,250 people.

okays

bosses'

# insurance removal Attorney-General

Rubenstein has given the Treasury the go ahead to commence proceedings to remove the senior insurance managers convicted in March of price-fixing and other illegal activities. Action to remove the cartelists

By DAVID HARRIS

will begin immediately after Independence Day, Treasury spokesman Eli Yosef said last night. During a meeting with Supervisor of Insurance Doron Shorer,

Rubenstein told him he is of the opinion the action can be taken under section 18 of the Supervision of Insurance Companies Law. ..

Shorer had been waiting for the green light to forcibly remove the managers, in an attempt to clean up the industry. Shorer also received the backing

of State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat, whose annual report, which was published on Wednesday, was highly critical of the managers. The Treasury's legal department

also maintains it is within Shorer's rights to push ahead with the technical change required. In order to remove the executives.

whom, apart from one, have so far failed to stand down, Shorer will have to alter the conditions required for an insurer's license.

Shorer has become all the more determined to fight the cartelists, because in the main they have the backing of their senior company colleagues.

Jerusalem District Court Judge Yonatan Adiel convicted six insurance companies, 11 of their mahagers and the Association of Insurance Companies of creating an illegal cartel in 1991 and 1992.

The six companies convicted, as part of a plea bargain arrangement, are Migdal, Clai Insurance. Hamagen, Sahar, Zion and



#### Betting on a big profit

Spectators watch the fireworks at the opening of the Crown Casino in Melbourne, Australia, yesterday on the banks of the Yarra River. The casino, the largest in Asia and Australia, is valued by analysts at \$1.56 billion. It has 2,500 slot machines and tions put the first ver

### Strauss-Elite to sell excess Reshet stake

By AYIVA KRULL

The sale of Strauss's excess shares in Reshet, the Channel 2 televisioo franchisee, will be completed hy the eod of May or the beginning of June, Reshet CEO Tzadik Bino said yesterday. Reshet is owned hy Yediot Media (24%), Poalim Investments (24%), Elite (21%), Tzadik Bino (17%), and Strauss

(14%). According to the Second Channel Law, a single holding in a hroadcast company must be limited 30% of a franchisee's shares, and shareholders who are owners of other communications media may bold only up to 24%.

With the acquisition of Elite. Strauss bolds 35%, and must sell 5% of the voting shares and 3% of the capital shares. According to the agreement

among Reshet's shareholders, the seller can accept an offer from a third party who is not currently a shareholder. The shareholders have the right of first refusal, and also have 60 days in which to make up their minds

Given the present distribution of shares among the existing partners, the only ones who can purchase the shares are Poalim

they were still interested in

Tempo, and that all sides had

agreed to work towards the share

ownership agreement.

acquisition.

on May 3.

of the Dutch.

terms of the deal.

Shilon, however, denied flatly he has any intentions of huytog the shares at stake. "No one bas offered me them, and I'm oot interested," he said. Investments and Tzadik Bino.

#### Poalim Investments deputy general manager Roni Harel said in an interview that at this stage

Moses.

there are no contacts over the matter with Strauss. Globes

There is speculation in the

industry that Reshet general manager Dan Shilon is likely to

huy the sbares, which would

arouse fierce opposition from

Ycdiot media owner Arnon

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#### Heineken further stated its cooperation with Tempo would continue, and even expand, while attempts are being made to find a formula according to which Heineken could enter into an Originally, Podhorzer bad granted Beer an option to acquire his shares in Tempo, but ultimately refused to renew the option after its initial expiration The option was conditional on Beer's eventual sale of his share in Tempo to Heineken, a move which would have effectively placed the company in the hands Industry insiders believe Podhorzer will eventually renew the option, hut before that will attempt to improve the original vary according to bank. SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

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#### Heineken resumes Tempo bid By ORNA RAVIV / Globes over Tempo. and Jerusalem Post Staff Tempo Beer Industries minority shareholder Moshe Podhorzer

has agreed to resume negotiations over the sale of his boldings in the Netanya-based beverage producer to Dutch brewer Heineken, which seeks to take Podhorzer's consent came at the end of a protracted meeting

between Heineken representatives, who arrived in Tel Aviv from Holland, and Tempo majority sharebolder Jack Beer. At the end of the meeting,

Heineken's representatives said

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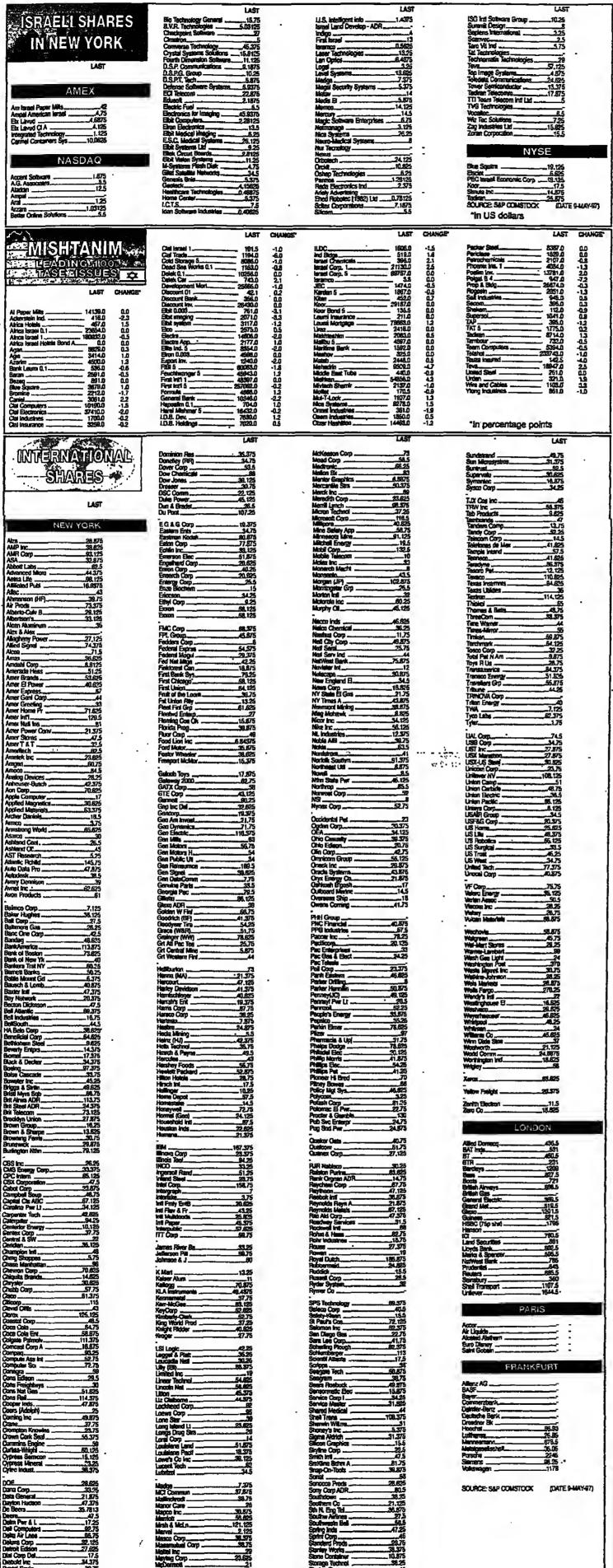
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TASE ROUNDUP

## Teva boosts indexes

Mishtanim **259.72 ▲ 0.43**% Maof

268.47 🛦 +0.55%

#### By DAN GERSTENFELD

Shares closed slightly higher yesterday, recovering early losses by a rise led by shares in Teva Pharmaceutical Industries, traders

The benchmark Mishtanim index of the top 100 shares rose 0.43 percent, or 1.11 points, to 259.72 on an all-share turnover of NIS 118 million against NIS 93

million Wednesday. The Maof 25 blue chip index

Key Representative	Rates
US DollarNIS 3.4030	- 0.03%
Sterling NIS 5.5209	- 1.04%
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DATA COMMUNICATIONS VIA ABARCONPUTER SYSTEMS LIMITED

Foreign financial data courtesy of CommStock Trading Ltd. Futures, Options, Stocks, Bonds and Mutual Frends

34 Ben Yehuda St., Jerusalem

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closed 0.55% higher at 268.47. The session opened with a mild decline continuing Wednesday's correction, but the trend changed after Teva released its earning reports," said Daniella Finn, head of sales at Batucha Securities and Investments.

Teva, the most active share, rose 2.5% to 18,947 agorot on volume of NIS 13.9 million after the company said that earnings per American Depositary Receipt rose in the first quarter to \$0.51 from \$0.30 in the same quarter of 1996.

"The results were above expectations and Teva was the trigger for today's rise pushing the whole market upwards. Teva is traded now at 3.7% above its ADR price on Nasdaq," Finn added.

The market is very strong and today's rebound is a clear indica-tion that the market looks good. It opened with a decline of 0.25%, but then it started rising, remaining stable during the day," said a

trader at the First International Bank of Israel Finn added that the market is expected to stabilize at the current

Elron closed unchanged at 4,598 agorot. Elron said that earnings per share in the first quarter rose slightly to 50 13 against \$0.12 in the same period tast year Industrial Building gained 1.5% to 519 agorot. The company said

net profit rose in the first quarter to NIS 16.8 million from NIS 8.3 million a year earlier. Other active shares include Bank Happalim, which rose 1% to 704 agorot on volume of NIS 5.5 million; Israel Discount Bank, which closed unchanged at 356

On Sunday and Monday there will be no trading on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, because of Remembrance Day for the Fallen of Israel's Wars and Independence

agorot on tumover of NIS 3.3 mil-

#### **WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP**

### London sets record

LONDON (Reuter) - The United Kingdom's FTSE 100 index leapt to its fifth consecutive record close yesterday, inspired by gains on Wall Street, despite a sterling related profit warning from Britain's biggest industrial conglomerate.

The last couple of days we have seen a few profit warnings and downgrades in some pretty significant stocks," said lan Williams, UK equity strategist at Panmure Gordon. "But the market just keeps on going up, which

shows how strong it is."
The FTSE 100 closed up 42.9 points at an all-time record high of 4,580.4, after being down around

20-points at its worst. FRANKFURT - The German share market was closed for the Ascension Day holiday, Regular trading will resume today. On Wednesday the blue chip DAX index eased to close the bourse session down 16.30 points at 3,551.98 points.

 The French share mar kel also was closed. On Wednesday the blue-chip CAC-40 index closed down 8.62 points at 2,643.31.

ZURICH - Swiss shares were closed for the holiday. On Wednesday the all-share Swiss Performance Index closed up 16.51 points to 3,167.28.

TOKYO - Tokyo stocks ended nearly flat after the key index teetered around the 20,000 barrier for most of the session. Brokers said the market was weighed down by profit-taking, but gained support from purchases of laggard issues, mainly by foreign investors. The 225-share Nikkei

average was 12.91 points higher at 20,061.81.

HONG KONG - A late rally pushed Hong Kong stocks to a sharply higher close, bolstered by a surge in Hong Kong Telecom as investors speculated on a deal with a Chinese partner and welcomed the firm's annual earnings. The Hang Seng Index rose 134,39 points to 13,740,30, wiping out an early loss of 158.43 points. SYDNEY - The Australian

share market fell, but remained above the key psychological level of 2,500 despite market leader BHP going ex-dividend and Wednesday's drop on Wall Street. The market was also depressed by the tumble in ICI Australia shares, which fell almost 10%, after news its British parent ICI planned to sell its A\$2 billion (NIS 5 billion) holding in the chemical group. The All Ordinaries index ended 12.9 points lower at 2,504.7. JOHANNESBURG - South

African industrial shares recovcrea some morning losses to end flat, lifted by local fund buying towards the close while gold shares ended firm on a weaker rand and as bullion headed nearer the \$344 level. Industrial shares ended the day tlat but off their worst levels after starting soft on a weaker Wall Street Dealers said volume traded was generally light save for the top six shares, which included construction group Murray and Roberts Holdings.

The gold index ended up 24.8 points to 1,214.1 points. The industrial index lost 6.2 points to 8,497.4 points and the overall index ended up 2.2 points to 7,162.9 points.

#### WALL STREET REPORT

### Capital gains tax-cut plans boost Dow

NEW YORK (Reuter) - Blue-chip stocks closed higher yesterday as Wall Street traders put a positive spin on plans to lower the capital gains The Dow Jones industrial average was up 50.97 points at 7,136.62, as

it recaptured part of Wednesday's 140-point plunge.

In the broader market, advancing issues led declines by a margin of 14to-10 on beavy volume of 537 million shares on the New York Stock



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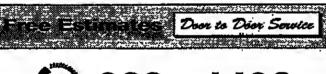
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n: Shoresh Pharm, 42 Agrippas,

Herziliya: Clal Pharm. Beit Merkazim, 6 Maskit (cnr. Sdero) Hagalim), Herziliya Pituah, 955-8472, 955-8407. Open 9 a.m. er Nazareth: Clai Pharm, Lev Ha'ır

Mall, 657-0468. Open 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Krayot area: Kupat Holim Clafit Zevulun,

192 Derech Akko, Kiryat Bialik, 878-7818.

Haita: Hadas, 53 Horev, 826-2673.

Saturday, May 10 Jerusalem: (day) Jalfa Gate, 628-3898; (evening) Kupat Holim Clalit, Straus A, 3 Avigdori, 670-6660; (day and evening) Balsam, Salah e-Din, 627-2315; Shualat, Shuafat Road, 581-0108: Dar Aldawa. Herod's Gate, 628-2058.Tel Aviv: Grusso. 27 Sheinkin, 528-4791; Superpharm, 40 Einstein, 641-3730. Till midnight: Superpharm Ramai Aviv. 40 Einstein, Ramel Aviv, 641-3730;

Superpharm London Ministore, 4 Shaul Hamelech, 696-0115. Ra'anana-Klar Sava: (day) Silvia, 182 Weizmann, Klar Save, 765-5881; Clai Pherm, 114 Ahuza, Ra'anana, 741-0211. Netanya: Hasharon mall, Herzl, 961-Halfa: Ballour, 1 Massada, 862-2289.

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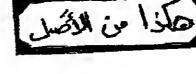
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### But chief of staff warns more funds needed

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

On the eve of the Independence Day weekend, Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak said that despite the critical State Comptroller's Report, the IDF is in good shape. But be warned that unless the defense budget is drastically increased the IDF will have trouble meeting

In his first reacoon to the report, Shahak said more money is needed to correct the situation in the IDF's emergency warehouses and replenish supplies. However, he said the deficiencies would not prevent Israel from winning any

A confident Shahak told military

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reporters that he had no doubt the IDF could defeat the Syrian army if war broke out.

The IDF is much stronger than the Syrian army and we are growing in strength every year," Shahak said. "We will be victorious in any war against [Syria]. But there are steps we have to take to meet the threats, such as their surface-to-surface missiles and improvements in their artillery."

"The hudget, however, is significant regarding the duration of the war and even the number of losses we are willing to take. We need to invest more to reduce these losses and more quickly defeat them [the

Shahak said NIS 1 billion was diverted last year to replenish supplies in light of assessments that there was a greater feasibility that fighting could break out with Syria. "But if there won't be a significant increase in the [IDF] budget we'll have to rethink our planning," Sbahak said. "We can't let off lots of people. The running costs can't be lowered for an

extended period. We can't cut security costs in south Lebanon and we can't make any major changes in the level of supplies."
"It's like using blocks to plug a

leak. You remove one to plug a hole, but then you open another,"

Regarding the poor training of standing units tike the Golani Brigade, Shahak dismissed the comptrotter's criticism, saying that the level sought is an optimum, but that current training levels are also good. He said that white the IDF does not have a surplus of combat soldiers, the existing units are full. He also said that the oumber of fighting units should not be reduced

"Quite the contrary. I'd be happy to see a larger buildup of forces," Shahak said.

Asked whether he woold seek to extend his term as chief of staff for fourth year, or retire next year, Shahak said he had not yet decided. He also said that a reshuffle of the General Staff is not expected



Honoring the fallen

NEWS

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu prepares to lay a wreath last night at Jerusalem's Yad Lebanim, during a ceremony held in advance of Remembrance Day for the Fallen of Israel's Wars.

(Bryam McBurney)

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### **Remembrance Day** marks death of 18,538

By ARIEN O'SULLIVAN

On Saturday night the nation bows its head to mark the 18,538 who have fallen in battle and terrorism since Israel's founding 49 years ago. This year's ceremonies will noted by the fresh graves of 73 servicemen who were killed in the helicopter collision last February on their way to Lebanon - the worst single accident in the history of the IDF.

Remembrance Day begins at 10 p.m. tomorrow night with the ceremony at the Western Wall in Jerusalem, President Ezer Weizman and Chief of General Staff Lt-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak are to speak at the ceremony.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai sent a letter to bezeaved families: "The list of those who have fallen is long. Each one was a world unto himself and the best among us.

"We saw this before our very eyes with the terrible helicopter tragedy in which we lost 73 of the best fighters. We also lost soldiers in actions in Lebanon and in the defense of the

state, in the fight against terror and in the continuing actions to strengthen our army.

"As we approach the jubilee of our independence, we look, full of hope, for progress in the peace process with our neighbors," Mordechai wrote, "But we also know that all our strength will be needed for many years to come in order to advance toward this peace, or God forbid, to stand against possible threats and

On Sunday, the main Remembrance Day ceremony will take place at Mt. Herzl, simultaneously with ceremonies at 40 military cemeteries around the country. The IDF's memorial unit plans to place flowers on every military grave, while Bnei Akiva youth are to place memorial candles on military tombstones and youth from the Noar Ve haoved Ve halomed movement are to hand out flowers at the gates

of all military cemeteries. This year, the Defense Ministry said, there are 74,187 disabled veter-

April 1996. Along roads includ-

ed in Project 700, the number of

dead for the same month was 11 in April 1997, up from eight in

However, according to oational traffic police statistics, the

number of non-fatal accidents

has been reduced on Project 700

roads. There were only \$6 acci-

dents in April 1997, compared with 154 in April 1996, on the

same highways, a 44% decrease.

Technion's transport research

institute, said the project is a

long-term experiment and is

hased on similar projects carried

Therefore we can only reach

conclusions at the end of a 12-mooth period," he said. "Any

other conclusions at such an early

Prof. Shalom Hackart, of the

April 1996.

out abroad.

#### attacks continue By DAVID RUDGE

Hizbullah

Hizbullah gunmen launched a series of attacks on IDF and South Lebanese Army troops and positions in the security zone yesterday.

There were no casualties among IDF or SLA troops in any of the incidents yesterday, which followed the conclusion of another lengthy meeting of the Grapes of Wrath monitoring

group.
The five-nation monitoring committee completed its discussions, which began Wednesday afternoon, at 3 a.m. yesterday regarding complaints by Israel and Lebanon over recent incidents in south Lebanon in which civilians were killed and wound-

The Israeli complaint related to an incident earlier this week in which Hizbullah gunmen planted and detonated two explosive devices in a shop in a village near Marjayoun township. Four civilians and three SLA soldiers were wounded in the explosions.

The complaint by Lebanon was over roadside bombs which had been disguised as rocks and which had been planted by the side of the road near Nabatiya township, north of the security zooe. The devices exploded, killing two civilians and injuring a man and his wife who were in

a car nearby.

The IDF Spokesman issued a statement at the conclusion of the monitoring group meeting saying that the committee had determioed that the planting of explosive devices in villages was a violation of the understandings reached at the end of the cross-border fighting last

The fighting yesterday broke out in the afternoon, when Hizhullah gunmen fired several mortar rounds at IDF troops on operational duties in the zone's eastern sector. At the same time, mortars were fired at a nearby SLA position.

Later, mortars were fired at a SLA outpost in the zone's west-em sector, prompting return fire from IDF gunners. There were further exchanges in the evening when mortars were fired at another SLA position in the

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OPEN TO A WORLD OF COLOR SCILOX

By RAINE MARCUS, However, a month after the start of the project, media reports DAVID RUDGE, and Itim have criticized the project, saying that fatalities bave not been Twenty-eight people were injured - three of them seriously reduced. Nationwide 49 people were killed in accidents in April 1997, compared with 42 fatalities io

Fog cause of multiple

accidents in North

in a series of accidents, under foggy conditions, on the Haifa-Nazareth road early yesterday Twenty-one people were injured io one of the incidents, which involved oine vehicles,

including trucks and vans, oear Bir al-Maksur village. The pitenp occurred around 6:30 a.m., following two other accidents, in which seven other people were injured, oo-the same stretch of road. The injured were takeo in a fleet of ambulances to hospitals in the region.

Adi Ben-Simoo, who was caught io the traffic jam resulting from the chain accident, said there had been heavy fog in the area at the time.

"I saw a lot of people injured and shouting. One of the small trucks ran into the back of the semitrailer and I saw people inside trying to get out," he said.
The road is one of the highways on which police have beefed up their presence and are using advanced technology to try

Police stressed, however, that yesterday's accidents were primarily a result of the foggy condi-

to reduce accidents as part of

In another accident yesterday evening, a 50-year-old man was hit by a train on the northern outskirts of Haifa and was killed at the scene, police reported. In Rehovot, a 33-year-old Raftah man was hit by a bus and seriously injured while crossing a street between parked cars oear the city's Kaplan Hospital. Police are investigating the cause of the accident.

Though 11 people were killed in traffic accidents this past week, police defended Project 700, which began on April 7, saying it is still in its early stages and it is far too soon to determine its effectiveness. The average number of people killed weekly on the roads is 13.

Traffic police say they believe the project, being implemented over 700 kilometers of highways, will deter drivers from committing mioor and lifethreateoing traffic offenses.

### stage are neither serious nor pro-fessional." zone's eastern sector.

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### Motevassel reaches Eisenberg semis

By HEATHER CHAIT

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Oren Motevassel, the much maligned local tennis player, is the only Israeli to reach today's semifinal rounds of the \$50,000 Eisenberg Jerusalem Open Challenger tournament.

Motevassel, who has never represented Israel in Davis Cup tennis, is now 29 years old, the age when Amos Mansdorf decided to retire. Yet Motevassel is playing the best tennis of his life.

Yesterday Motevassel, the second highest ranked Israeli at 194. beat Mose Navarra of Italy 6-4, 6-4 in the quarterfinals.

"I played consistently well," said seventh seed Motevassel, the only seed left in the tournament, "I kept him deep, played aggressively and made him lose his balance."

Meeting Motevassel today will be Manrice Ruah from Venezuela who survived a fierce battle of inst under three hours against sixth seed Goichi Motormura from Japan.

Ruah, 'ranked 250 against Motomura's 180, preferred to stay at the baseline while he applied mental and physical pressure to win 7-6(3), 6-7(3), 7-6(7).

"It was very, very tough," said Ruah afterwards. "I had to be mentally very strong and find the shots to beat him." The other semi-final will be contested between Gabriel Trifu from Romania and Wayne Black from Zimbabwe.

Trifu had a smooth passage over Raviv Weidenfeld, winning 6-2, 6-2 while Black put out Mexican Luis Herrera, seeded fifth, 6-7(8),

Three seeds have reached today's doubles semi-finals.

Top seeds Leander Paes and Mahesh Bhopathi from India will play third seeded Ruah and Italian ence Tieleman while Black and Kevin Ullyett from South Africa, second seeds, will play Gianluca Pozzi from Italy and James Sekulov from Australia.

Yesterday Black and Ullyett defeated Motevassel and Yoni Erlich 1-6, 7-6(4), 6-3.

The singles semi-finals will begin at 13:00 at the Israel Tennis Center in Jerusalem, followed by the doubles matches.

Tomorrow's finals begin at 10.30

### National rugby team take on Yugoslavia

The national rugby team leaves for Yugosalvia this morning to play its third match in the preliminary rounds of Rugby World Cup 1999. The game against will be held tomorrow afternoon in Pancevo, some 30km from the capital, Belgrade. Israel has an unbeaten record in the five-team pool, having defeated Austria 15-3 and drawn 9-9 with Switzerland, both games

held last November in Tel Aviv. Little is known about the Yugoslav team except that they beat Switzerland 8-0, bot were thrashed by Ukraine 60-0. The Israeli team will return on Sunday and will immediately start preparing for their next fixture, against powerful Ukraine in Odessa next

stage leading to the finals which will be held in Wales in 1999.

Israel will be led by veteran Ra'anana fly-half Jonathan Saacks and the vice captian is forward

The full touring team is: Forwards: Itzhak Ariel, Mark Goldin, Myron Lipson, Alex Tkachenko, Tomer Bracha, Selwyn Hare, Fabian Rios, Alon Tamir, Avital Eliasov, Zevulun Kaye. David Taitz, Marcelo Hauteman.

Backs: Larry Gordon, Dean Du Plessis, Jonathan Saacks, Evgeny Zaharov, Dion Carreira, Michael Katzman, Darren Pincus, Oren Beck, Isaac Tzafadia.

The coaches are Chaim Peer and Jeremy Schauder and the team will be accompanied by president of the Israel Rugby Union Elisha Rubin. executive administrator Cyril Only the winning team in the Motris and referee and vice presipool advance to the next qualifying dent Ray Fisher.

#### Knicks beat Heat in Miami, Sonics even series in Houston

was no advantage for the Miami Heat or the Houston Rockets Wednesday as the New York Knicks and Seattle SuperSonics snatched road victories in NBA second-round playoff action.

Allan Houston and Patrick Ewing combined for 18 points in a 22-3 burst that closed the third quarter and gave the Knicks an 88-79 victory over the Heat in the opener of their Eastern Conference semifinal series.

Honston scored 27 points and Ewing 24 for New York, which remained unbeaten in the playoffs and wrested the homecourt edge away from former coach Pat Riley, who was denied his 1,000th NBA coaching victory by his former team and now hitter rivals.

The Knicks held the Heat without a basket for more than seven minutes of the second half. Miami set franchise playoff lows with 19 percent shooting and three baskets in the third quarter.

Tim Hardaway scored 21 points and Alonzo Mourning added 20 for the Heat, who beat out the Knicks for their first Atlantic Division title but lost to them for the fourth time in five meetings this season, including all three in

MIAMI (Reuter) - Homecourt with 5:39 left in the third period before Ewing and Houston took over. Ewing made a 10-footer and two free throws and Houston hit a three-pointer before the Knicks took the lead for good at 53-52 on a jumper by Charles Oakley with 3:30 remaining. The quarter ended with New York up 66-55 - a 19-

point turnaround. Ewing dominated his hyped matchup with Mourning, grabbing 16 rebounds. Mourning, who had early foul trouble, had just six rebounds and missed 7-of-13 free

Larry Johnson had 14 points and Oakley added 11 and 12 rebounds for the Knicks, who shnt 36 percent (26-of-73) from the field but

made 30-of-32 foul shots. In Houston, Shawn Kemp had 22 points, 15 rebounds and two huge baskets down the stretch as the SuperSonics held off the Rockets 106-101 and evened their Western Conference semifinal series at one game apiece.

Hersey Hawkins scored 21 points and Sam Perkins, a surprise starter who virtually neutralized Houston superstar centre Hakeem Olajuwon, added 18 for the SuperSonics, who npened a 21-point lead, nearly blew it, then recovered to gain the homecourt edge. Game 3 is today in Seattle.

The Heat opened a 52-44 lead

#### Flyers up 3-0 over Sabres, Edmonton halves Colorado lead

PHILADELPHIA (Reuter) -Paul Coffey set up three goals in the first period and Eric Lindros and Dale Hawerchuk tallied on the power play 3:33 apart as the Philadelphia Flyers moved within one win of the Eastern Conference finals with a 41 victory over the Buffalo Sabres Wednesday.

In the Western Conference semifinals; the Edmonton Oilers halved the visiting Colorado Avalanche's lead to 2-1 in their best-of-seven series by rallying for

a 4-3 victory. The Flyers have a commanding 3-0 lead in the Eastern semis and can wrap it up at home in Game 4

Rod Brind'Amour added a firstperiod tally and Garth Snow stopped 15 shots for Philadelphia. Darryl Shannon accounted for Buffalo's offence with a powerplay goal in the first period.

The Sabres will try to become just the third team in NHL playoff history to erase a 3-0 deficit and win a best-of-seven series. The 1942 Toronto Maple Leafs and 1975 New York Islanders are the only teams to accomplish the feat. In Edmonton, Kelly Buchberger

and Ryan Smyth scored just over two minutes apart late in the third period to turn a 3-2 deficit into a 4-3 win over Colorado. Game 4 is today in Edmonton.

### Sweden reach world ice hockey final

HELSINKI (Reuter) - Olympic champions Sweden booked their place in the final and kept Canada's gold medal hopes alive with a 1-0 win over the Czech Republic at the ice hockey world championship yesterday. The Swedish victory ended any Czech hopes of retaining the title they won last year in Vienna and left old rivals Russia and Canada to face off

today to decide who will play Sweden in the final. Sweden owe their success to the spectacular shutout goaltending of Tommy Salo, who turned aside all 40 shots directed at him.

# Maccabi Tel Aviv to face Beersheba in State Cup final

By DEREK FATTAL and ORI LEWIS

Maccabi Tel Aviv will meet Hapoel Beersheba in the State Cup final later this month after both teams overcame their respective opponents - Bnei Yehnda and Betar Jerusalem - in yesterday's State Cup semi-final doubleheader at the National Stadium Ramat Gan before a near-capacity crowd of 40,000.

Maccabi the current State Cup holders ended 2-0 winners against the team-of-theseason, Betar Jerusalem, thanks to two contentions penalties awarded by referee Danny Koren and converted in spectacular fashion by Avi Nimni. Both penalties involved Betar defender Jan Talasnikov who was dismissed in the 47th minute for receiving his second yellow c aard of the game.

Earlier in the afternoon Bnei Ye abuda found themselves 3-0 down shortly after half time against Beersheba, then produced a spirited fightback to bring the scores to 3-2, only to allow the southerners to regain control late in the game again and so end 5-2 winners.

Mac. Tel Aviv 2, Bet. Jerusalem 0 Betar's dream of clinching their first-ever league and cup double were shattered in an illtempered match against their old foe. Sadly the game's outcome was determined by the refereeing of Danny Koren rather than by the respective footballing skills of the two sides. In retrospect Jerusalem coach Eli Cohen's decision to rely on Eli Ohana as the sole striker, proved erroneous, as this surrendered rather more initiative than was necessary to his counterpart Avraham Grant

The Betaris opened strongly enough cutting through the inside-forward channels twice in the first eight minutes. In the first instance Ohana had a forceful penalty appeal waved away by Koren following a challenge by Amír Shelah, while Itzik Zohar was met by an equally stone-faced reaction from Koren when he hit the turf inside the area after being crudely sandwiched between the Brumer

The Jerusalem fans might have stomached those decisions had Koren not then granted a penalty in the 14th minute when Nimni engineered Maccabi's first serious thrust of the game putting Haim Hajaj through towards

The Tel Aviv midfielder angled his way into the Betar box only to be tackled from behind by Talasnikov

This time Koren pointed to the spot, and Nimni stylishly hlasted the ball past ltzik Komfein to give Maccabi the lead. The Jerusalemites responded with lively attempts by David Amsslem and then Zohar.

but were unable in find the net. The referee's whistle continued to dominate the proceedings as foul after foul was commined turning what should have been a showcase game into a second-rate melee, punctuated by further scoring chances being squandered by Zohar and then Maccabi's Ofer Mizrahi rowards the

Any suggestion of an equal contest was ended two minutes after the restart when total confusion in the densely packed Betar goal-mouth ended with the ball falling to Azhar Kosic who fired towards the net. His shot rifled off a Betar player and struck the arm of Talasnikov, positioned no more than two

Despite the ball apparently hitting the play-er rather than Talasoikov playing the ball with

Yankees' catcher Joe Girardi (right) tags out Texas's Lee Stevens at home plate under the eagle eye of umpire Rocky Roe, as

Stevens tried to score a single. Wednesday's NL games: Montreal 19, San Francisco 3; Atlanta 3, Florida 2, 10 innings; NY Mets 4, Houston 1; St. Louis 14, Philadelphia 7; Pittsburgh 14, Colorado 3; Los Angeles 4, Cincinnati 2; San Diego 6, Chicago Cubs 3. Wednesday's AL games: Milwaukee 1, Oakland 0; Cleveland 7, Toronto 1; Detroit 12, Kansas City 3; Boston 11, Minnesota 3; Baltimore 3, Anaheim 0; NY Yankees 5, Texas 2.

Denny McLain gets eight years in prison

ing hearing and showed nn reaction when US

Duggan refused a request that McLain be

allowed to remain free on bond during appeal.

McLain made no comment as he was led away

teering and drug charges, and his business part-

McLain, who also has served time for racke-

District Judge Patrick Duggan sentenced him.

his hand, Koren - who seemed near enough to in awarding an indirect free kick from just know better - had no hesitation in awarding another Tel Aviv penalty and flashed his red card before a disbelieving Talasnikov.

The incident caused one wag amongst the Betar hordes to suggest that the State Comptroller check Koren's bank account for desposits by a certain Tel Aviv sporting orga-

Despite Talasnikov's heated protest Koren stood firm by his decision, and Nimni fired into goal for a second time with calm assur-

With just ten men on the field the Jerusalemites never looked like coming back into the match, and Mizrahi and then Nimni should have put the matter beyond doubt for Tel Aviv around the hour mark.

The introduction of Nir Sivilia and then Eitan Mizrahi failed to have the desired effect for Betar, and although heartened by the loyal support of their fans, who stayed to the bitter end, the Jerusalemites could not prevent their opponents from progressing a step nearer their 14th cup success, and another crack at Europe.

Bnei Yehuda 2, Hap. Beersheba 5 It was a case of the right team getting a just result in the early match at the National

Beersheba fans had set out from the Negev in the early morning and prepared to take up their places in the stands well before kickoff. The effort was well worth it, as they saw the league's third-placed team take Bnei Yehuda to the cleaners in the first half.

A terrible mistake by Bnei Yehuda goalkeeper Liran Strauber in the 25th minute led to the first goal. He picked up the ball from a back pass, referee Eyal Tzur had no hesitation

Steinbrenner faces sanctions

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Taking a page from Jerry Jones of the Dallas Cowboys, whn enraged NFL officials and fellow owners

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They were accused of stealing \$3 million from

the pension fund of Peet Packing Co., then using

the money for company debts and personal

McLain must pay the \$2.5 million plus interest dating to Feb. 17, 1994, just after he bought the

seven meters to Beersheba.

When the fearsome Gadi Hazut made contact, the ball had "goal" written all over it as he; hammer-drilled the ball into the back of the net despite the goalmouth being crowded by orange-colored shirts.

The talented Siad Halilovic added a secondgoal for the southerners on the stroke of halftime, and the match looked all but over when: soon after the restart, Shai Holtzman diverted. spectacular header past Strauber.

The introduction of veteran Nissim Cohen the oldest player in the league at 42 - soonafterwards brought something of a revival to. the HatikvaQuarter side.

Amir Avigdor, formerly a Beersheba player. pulled a goal back for Bnei Yehuda on the hour and suddenly the Negev side looked dis-

The 3-0 lead, which then became a 3-1 lead, appeared as if it could easily be wiped out as Bnei Yehuda began attacking the Beersheba-goal. Alon Mizrahi had a couple nf good chances and he finally hit the target when he converted a penalty on 67 minutes.

Somehow, Beersheba managed to hold on for a few more minutes and then regained their composure.

The outcome was put beyond doubt five minutes from the end when Beersheba substirate Sharon Avitan made it 4-2. He sealed the scoreline with another a minute into injury time, but by then, the celebrations had already begun in camest.

Beersheba reached the State Cup final for the second time in their history. They lost the 1984 final to Hapoel Lod 3-2 on penalties

### Time right for end to UEFA Cup final format GELSENKIRCHEN, Germany the final.

(Reuter) - Schalke and Internazionale Milan's dismal UEFA Cup final first leg provided perfect evidence that officials are right to bring an end to the competition's two-match format for

Apart from a spectacular goal from Belgian Marc Wilmots which kept alive Schalke's dream of their first European trophy, the game was a dreary tactical, defensive affair which provided little excitement for the neutral observ-

It was a game dominated by fear. Both sides appeared afraid to push forward too much in case they gave away a goal.

From next season the tournament's format for the final is due to be changed and just one match will be played on a neutral venue. Wednesday's dour encounter

match must have reassured

Europe's governing body UEFA that it is taking the right decision.'
Even Schalke, who face an immense task to keep their lead when they visit Milan's intimidating San Siro stadium for the second leg in two weeks, failed to use their home advantage to the full. despite an enthusiastic capacity crowd of more than 56,000.

The fact that Inter were not a full strength because of the suspension of French defender Jocelyn Angloma, England midfielder Paul Ince and Frenchman Youri Djorkaeff, could account for some of their hesitant play. But the Italians, winners of the

Cup twice in the 1990s, have a much stronger squad than their German rivals who have not won a trophy of any sort since 1972. Inter could have produced a lot One of the most important fac-

iors for the home side was that " several of their players were carrying yellow cards and were therefore in danger of missing the second leg through suspension. Those worries would not have

been a factor in a one-match final. Gelsenkirchen could have been spared a tedious night.

**SCOREBOARD** 

ENGLISH SOCCER Premier league results last night: Blackburn 0, Middlesbrough 0; Manchester United 0,

### declined to make a statement during his sentenc-Rangers celebrate, Celtic mourn, Glasgow recovers

NEW YORK (Reuter) - New

York Yankees owner George

Steinbrenner could be facing his third suspension from Major

League Baseball for filing a law-

suit over objections to his team's

\$95 million marketing deal with

"This time George has really gone 100 far," an unidentified high-

ranking baseball official told the

New York Daily News. "He's gning

both the major league and agency

By suing baseball and defying

to get himself suspended again.

GLASGOW (Renter) - Glasgow was shaking off several thousand giant-sized headaches yesterday after Rangers wrote themselves into the record books with a ninth successive Scottish League championship triumph.

a company he owned.

No score

Pat Riley named Coach of Year

NHW YORK (Renter)—Par Riley of the Minus Heat yesterday was manned 1996-97 NHA Coach of the Year, becoming the first coach in league hissay in win the award with three different league. In his second season as Minus's head coach. Riley guided the Heat to a franchise best of 21 record—an improvement of 19 victories over the nievious season—and the chab giftst division title.

The Heile possed whiming records for an improvement of 19 victories over the nievious season—and the chab giftst division title.

The Heile possed whiming records for an increasing transition of the Manne of the West Adaptive Division:

Riley worth his first Coach of the Year Award with the Los Angeles Laters in 1990 after not getting the bonor despite guiding the fear to four NHA championships in the 1980s.

He canned his second Coach of the Year and with the New York Knicks in 1993.

Knicks in 1993.

Riley joins Don Nelson as the only coaches in NBA history to receive the housen three times.

DETROIT (AP) - Denny McLain, the last

pitcher in Major League Baseball to win 30

games in a season, was sentenced to eight years

in prison and ordered to pay \$2.5 million on

Wednesday for stealing from the pension plan of

The 53-year-old former Detroit Tigers star

Half of this divided, footballmad city was still recovering from the celebrations sparked by the title-clinching 1-0 victory over Dundee United on Wednesday night, while the other half was plunged into mounting.

Celtic, who had jealnusly guarded their own place in history thanks to the nine-in-a-row achievement under Jock Stein

between 1966 and 1974, have now match at home to Kilmarnock ted he felt he too might have been seen their greatest rivals equal that clinging to the hope that their of superiority for the green half of the Old Firm.

by marshals.

Fittingly, it was Brian Laudrup who scored the vital goal which sealed Rangers' success with just one game left. The Danish star has been the outstanding individual for Walter Smith's team in this

landmark season. And while Landrup's early goal in Dundee launched the party for Rangers' 5,000 travelling fans, it rendered an entire stadium 100 miles away into silence.

record and wipe out two decades rivals would lose to take the race into the final day tomorrow, but Parkhead was like a morgue once the 43,000 crowd learned of Laudrup's goal. The Celtic-Kilmamock match fizzled out into a 0-0 draw.

> these two clobs over 109 years has never been greater than it has over the last 10 months as Rangers sought to hanl in title number nine and Celtic fought to prevent it. The bartle cost Celtic manager

Tommy Burns his job last Friday Cellic fans named up for their and even counterpart Smith admit-

The fierce competition between

branded a failure if he had not delivered the goods.

There was a lot of pressure on us this season, in the sense that Celtic had obviously won nine in a row and have been our biggest rivals for a long number of years," Smith reflected.

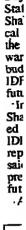
When it came to the opportunity to equal oine, it would have been looked opon as a failure if it had not been achieved. There was pressure oo me on a

personal basis. "But this season there was a hit

more pressure and tension all round - maybe too much. Celtic

had a lot to do to try and stop us. In the end it maybe cost Tommy Burns his job because he had not managed it. Few could savor-Rangers' moment of triumph more than Smith. He had supported the club as a boy but a moderate playing career with Dundee United. where he was also a coach, kept him away from his beloved Ibrox until Graeme Souness recruited him as his right-hand man after becoming Rangers manager in

Sports Editors: Jasopif Hotiman and Ori Lewis



Snaking up Masada

Some 1,000 immigrant youths from the former Soviet Union climb up the Snake Path at Masada yesterday as part of Independence Day activities. The immigrants, aged 17-21, are on two Jewish Agency programs that bring youth here and enroll them in vocational or aca-

# Religious caucus threatens to bolt over conversion bill

By LIAT COLLINS

The caucus of religious parties in the coalition met vesterday and threatened a coalition crisis if the government does not continue to process the legislation on the con-version bill, which was frozen after first reading some six weeks ago to allow time to find a com-

The caucus, comprising Shas, United Torah Judaism and the National Religious Party, also is demanding a law which would prevent Reform Jews from serving on religious councils. Likud and coalition chairman Michael Eitan dismissed the threats.

The meeting was convened by Interior Minister Eli Suissa (Shas), and Shas leader Arych Deri made a rare appearance in the Knesset building for it. Deri accused the government of not abiding by the

(68 1/2 cm x 49 1/2 cm)

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coalition agreement, which calls for the the conversion bill.

Suissa said: "We are simply asking that the signed agreements with us don't turn into scrap paper. if this happens we will be forced to exert our power, but I hope it won't come to that."

"The religious partics are fed up with these games," Deputy Health Minister Shlomo Benizri (Shas)

The religious MKs will meet with the prime minister next week to request that the legislation of the conversion bill proceed, Benizri continued, "and if it doesn't work as a request it will become an ulti-

Eitan played down the threats, saying the only alternative govern-ment would include Labor, Meretz and the Arab parties. He said the religious status quo is being pre-

MK Yuri Stem (Yisrael Ba'aliya) said since his party had stuck by the agreement and voted with the government on the conversion bill, despite strong opposition among both its own electorate and abroad, he "expects our coalition colleagues, including the religious parties, to abide by the agreements reached with them, which is not to

possibilities of a compromise solution have been exhausted." On the religious councils issue, Stern said if secular Jews could be members, there is no reason to ban representatives of other streams of

proceed to second reading until all

Third Way MK Alex Lubotsky, who is seeking to broker a com-promise on the conversion bill with the religious parties, which feel threatened by petitions to the high court, was scheduled to return from a trip abroad yesterday.

#### posters with prayers for soldiers in English and Hebrew. A PRAYER FOR THE SOLDIERS OF ISRAEL UT Price MIS 41 looks, The Jerusalem Post, POB 81, Jerusalem 91000 Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ copies of: Eligibuo for only A SIN WELL FOR THE FOLDHERS point at NIS 41 each VIS 74 conies of: ATRIBUTE TO IDF pouter at NIS 41 each A Tribute to IDF Please send me two for only NIS 74 Postage in Israel: NIS 8 per order. Airmail: NIS 10 per order (group of soldiers): 18 3/4" x 26 3/4" Enclosed check payable to The Jerusalem Post, or credit card details (47 1/2 cm x 68 cm) Please list gift recipient's name, address and message separately. ☐ Isc/MCD A Prayer for the Soldiers of Israel (IDF shield): 27° x 19 1/2°

# Labor blasts gov't over peace process

By LIAT COLLINS

Eight motions filed by both the opposition and coalition on subects ranging from security to Shabbat desecration were debated in a special Knesset session yester-

Opposition MKs attacked the government and its policies as failures," while coalition MKs accused the opposition of helping the Arabs and harming Israeli

MK Ephraim Sneh, a candidate for the Labor Party leadership, said in his speech: "[Prime Minister Binyamin] Netanyahu bas succeeded in taking us back to those days we had almost forgotten; those days when almost the whole world was against us; the diplomatic siege of the 1970s.

"Even relations with our great friend, the US, are not what they were in the past," said Soeh, adding, "The behavior of Netanyahu, the great isolator, makes us miss [former Likud prime minister Yitzhak] Shamir."

The government had even managed to isolate Israel from North American Jews with the proposed conversion law, he added.

Sneh was heckled by Zvi Hendel (National Religious Party) who called his statements "hutzpa" and by Shas MK Nissim Dahan, who said Sneb would "finish his speech, put a kippa on his head and go ask the rabbis for support in the primary elections."

Another candidate for the Labor Party leadership, Yossi Beilin, claimed that in conversations he bad beld with Arab leaders be found one of the reasons the peace process has stalled is: "The arrogance and superciliousness of some of those within our establishment who are, among other things, responsible for contacts with leaders in the Arab world."

Part of the reason for the stalemate is lack of experience, said Beilin, "Some of it is foolishness, for which God will forgive them, and some of it is indifference,

which is unforgivable."

Hendel accused the opposition of aiding the Arab side and likened it to a situation in which two people are negotiating over the sale of a car "and suddenly your uncle comes and says: What idiot is going to buy your car which has

been spluttering for months?"

Hendel said the government is trying "to straighten the twisted path a bit and you [the opposition] keep interfering... [t's uncon-scionable that [Meretz leader] Yossi Sarid says that [Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser] Arafat can't restrain himself on Har Homa and then to expect Arafat to

restrain himself." Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi attacked Beilin for his meetings with Arab leaders, and accused him of holding the meetings to promote bis position within the Labor Party before its primary elections.

"It's butzpa to do this at a diplomatically sensitive period," said Hanegbi. "All his visits are for his primary election campaign. He is holding an external campaign. He is asking for votes in Arab palaces. I haven't seen him go to Yeroham, but to Abu Mazen, he goes."

Hanegbi rejected claims that the peace process has died and said the government is doing all it can to further it, according to its own principles, "Our hands are stretched out to

peace, but unlike the previous government, we're not closing our eyes," Hanegbi said. The discussion on the State Comptroller's report, a motion

filed by Ruby Rivlin (Likud), was

also marked by mutual barbs. Rivlin and Likud MKs accused the Meretz MKs of "robbing public coffers" by transferring funds from the Education Ministry when it was under their control to bodies affiliated with the party. Rivlin also claimed the left-wing MKs fell themselves to be above the law, and had been aided by former attorney general Michael Ben-Yair.

"The Left had an attorney-gener-

CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA JERUSALEM

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HaZorfim

al whom they called 'Mickey' and there were therefore times that indiciments weren't filed, and investigations weren't even opened, so that everything they did was considered by them to be purely political while everything the Likud and its partners do they

call 'criminal and corrupt.' .... We in the Likud didn't have a

Mickey," he said. Meretz MK Amnon Rubinstein, who assumed the education portfolio from Shulamit Aloni, said that during his term in office the ministry abided strictly by the law and the highest norms of public admin-

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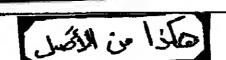
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